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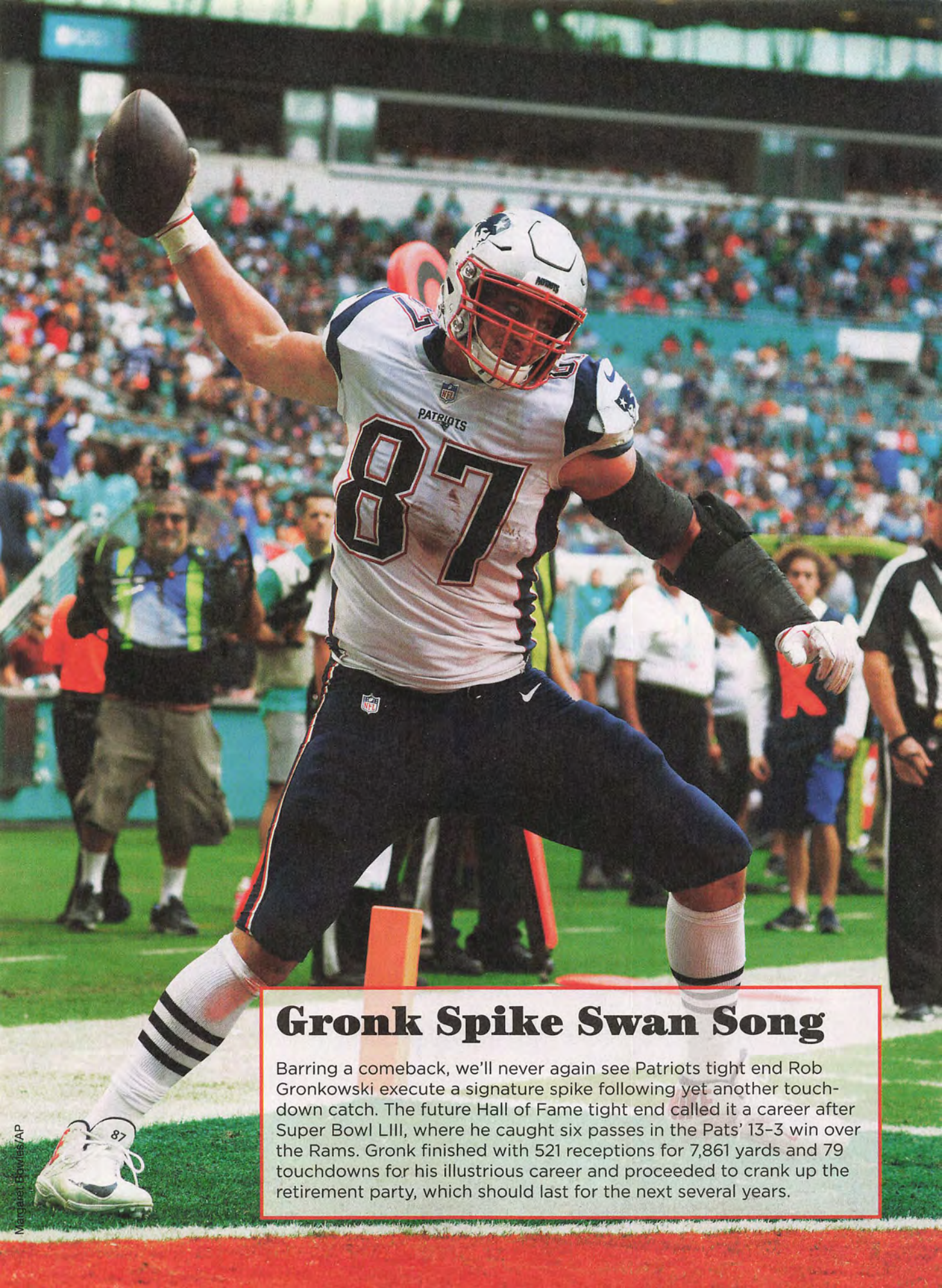
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Gronk Spike Swan Song

Barring a comeback, we'll never again see Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski execute a signature spike following yet another touchdown catch. The future Hall of Fame tight end called it a career after Super Bowl LIII, where he caught six passes in the Pats' 13-3 win over the Rams. Gronk finished with 521 receptions for 7,861 yards and 79 touchdowns for his illustrious career and proceeded to crank up the retirement party, which should last for the next several years.





En Fuego

Patrick Mahomes started the 2018 season hot and stayed that way. The Chiefs' second-year quarterback earned NFL MVP honors after a record-setting campaign that saw him become the youngest quarterback ever to throw 50 touchdown passes in a single season. Mahomes finished with 5,097 passing yards, joining Peyton Manning as the only QBs with 5,000 yards and 50 TDs in the same season. In the process, he raised the bar for his position (see page 38).

QUESTION

What is your favorite NFL mascot?

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Blue

Not sure what thieving little mammals have to do with mythical divine beings, but I'm partial to T-Rac, the mischievous Tennessee Titans raccoon.

T-Rac — he scared me when I was younger but I've grown to like him.



T-Rac

The Colts' mascot Blue. He's worth a Twitter follow (@blue).

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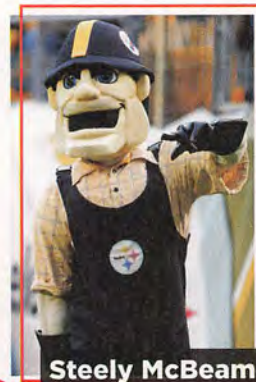
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Jaxson De Ville

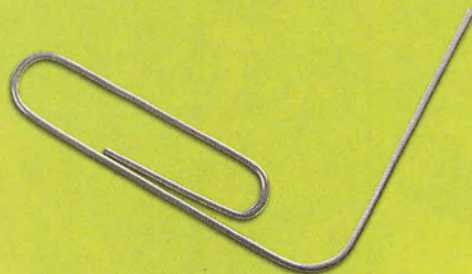
Jaxson De Ville from the Jags. It's so corny it's kind of funny. They should just use Jason from "The Good Place" as their mascot.



Steely McBeam

Steely McBeam for the win! His name is a classic.

The NFL has the worst mascots in all of pro sports — just paint-by-numbers giant furies. Give me a Cheesehead in Lambeau or one of those Darth-Vader-in-spiker-shoulder-pads lunatics in the Black Hole.



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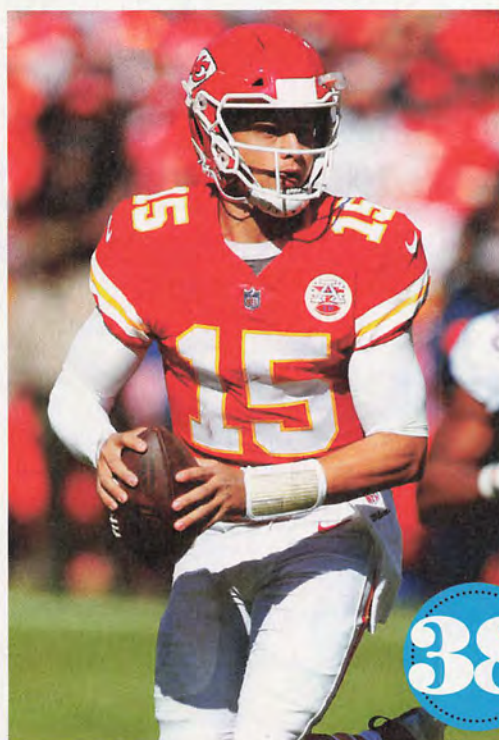
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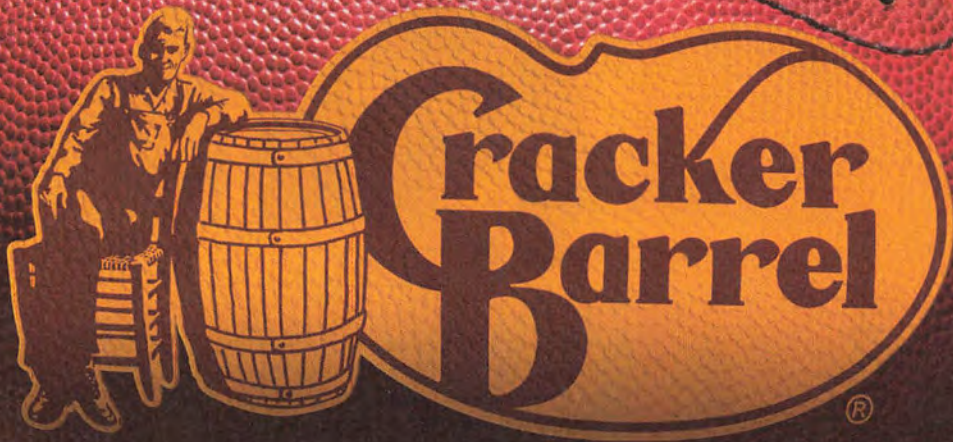
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15 THINGS TO WATCH IN 2019

By Charean Williams

1. Kyler Murray time

The Cardinals gave up three 2018 draft picks — a first-, third- and fifth-rounder — to trade up to No. 10 for Josh Rosen last year. They paid him more than \$11 million. Yet, the Cardinals hardly knew him.

Rosen lasted only one year in Arizona after the Cardinals — or more specifically new head coach Kliff Kingsbury — became infatuated with the idea of Kyler Murray running his offense. Arizona used the No. 1 overall pick on Murray, marking the first time in history a team with top-10 choices in back-to-back drafts has taken quarterbacks both times.

The Cardinals shipped Rosen to the Dolphins for a second-round pick this year — which Arizona turned into wide receiver Andy Isabella — and a fifth-rounder next year. Clearly, general manager Steve Keim's job is on the line. He hired Steve Wilks and drafted Rosen in 2018, and both are now gone.

Keim's choice of Kingsbury, who has never previously coached at the NFL level in any capacity, raised eyebrows. Murray fits what Kingsbury wants to do, but will Kingsbury's offense work in the NFL? And will Murray's height — just over 5'10" — prevent him from reaching his potential in the NFL?

Murray experienced nothing but success in high school and college. He and the Cardinals are convinced he can do the same at the NFL level. But Murray hasn't done it yet.



2. The Good News Browns

Jarvis Landry cried and Baker Mayfield yelled when they received news that the Browns had traded for Odell Beckham Jr. The three-time Pro Bowl receiver seemed unsure how to react to the trade initially but later called it one of "the best things that ever happened to me in my life."

Mayfield admits that the trade has increased his expectations for this season. The addition of Beckham has improved the Browns' odds of winning the AFC North, too, with Cleveland becoming the Las Vegas favorite with an over-under of nine victories.

The Browns last won a playoff game in 1994 when Bill Belichick was their head coach, 11 head coaches ago, counting interims.

Two seasons after going 0-16, though, they no longer are the Bad News Browns. GM John Dorsey has left his stamp on the team, trading 12 players he inherited and leaving only six players of the 24 selections made by former vice president of football operations Sashi Brown.

With Mayfield, Landry, Beckham, David Njoku, Nick Chubb, Antonio Callaway and Kareem Hunt on offense and Olivier Vernon and Myles Garrett on defense, the Browns appear ready to win now.



3. Win, reload, repeat

Every time the Patriots seem to have had their last stand, they win another Super Bowl. When will the NFL's greatest dynasty end? Who knows? It's time to stop guessing and enjoy watching the NFL's greatest quarterback in his golden years.

Tom Brady, who turns 42 in August, won his third NFL MVP award in 2017 and his sixth Super Bowl in 2018. He seemingly has found what Ponce de Leon once sought, stating repeatedly last season that his goal was to play to the age of 45.

In an Instagram post following the team's Super Bowl celebration in February, Brady wrote, "Hey Father Time, Just take the L." Winner is Brady's middle name.

Only twice since Brady became the starter in 2001 have the Patriots failed to make the postseason, and one of those came in 2008 when Brady missed 15 games with a knee injury. The Patriots have posted a winning record each season since 2001, with double-digit victories in 17 of the past 18 years.

Brady, though, won't have his favorite target this season unless tight end Rob Gronkowski decides to return. One of the all-time greats at his position, Gronkowski announced his retirement in March.

The more the roster changes in New England, though, the more the Patriots' winning ways stay the same.

4. Broncos' quarterback search continues

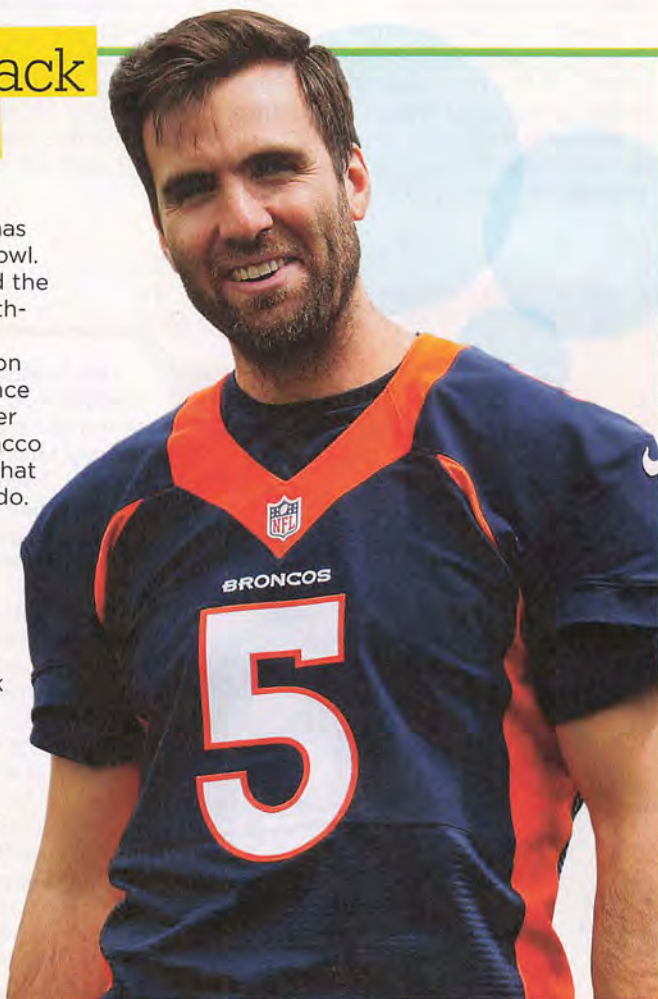
It doesn't seem that long ago that the Broncos won Super Bowl 50, but Denver is on its third head coach and fifth quarterback since 2015. Only six players — Todd Davis, Von Miller, Chris Harris Jr., Emmanuel Sanders, Derek Wolfe and Brandon McManus — remain from the Broncos' championship team. The Broncos went 20-28 the past three seasons, missing the postseason all three years.

They are starting over — again! — with head coach Vic Fangio and quarterback Joe Flacco. Flacco is starting over, seven years after his Super Bowl MVP award. He lost his job to rookie Lamar Jackson last season and posted a 42-41 record as a starter in his final six seasons in Baltimore, with 110 touchdowns, 80 interceptions and an 82.3

passer rating. Flacco has never made the Pro Bowl.

The Broncos traded the first of their two fourth-round draft picks for Flacco, who hasn't won a postseason start since 2014. General manager John Elway called Flacco the "perfect fit" for what the Broncos want to do.

In truth, Flacco, like Case Keenum last season, likely is only a bridge quarterback. The Broncos' search for a franchise quarterback led them to select Missouri's Drew Lock in the second round. Denver hopes Lock is the answer, but the Broncos' plan for this season is the same as the Ravens' plan was last season until Flacco was injured.



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5.

Jason Garrett's last stand?

The Cowboys coach got another year. He did not get a contract extension.

Garrett's contract status will remain a storyline for the Cowboys all year, putting him on the hot seat to start the season. He has been here previously.

Garrett, 53, became the Cowboys head coach in the middle of the 2010 season when he replaced Wade Phillips. He went into 2014 as a lame duck, too, and earned a five-year, \$30

million extension after the Cowboys went 12-4 and won the division.

Garrett, who is 77-59 with three postseason appearances and two postseason wins in his eight full seasons as a head coach, insists he has no problem going into 2019 on the final year of his contract. But rumors of Sean Payton replacing him after the season are only going to grow louder unless the Cowboys win — and win big — in 2019.

6. Is Nick Foles the savior?

After a run to the AFC Championship Game in 2017, the Jaguars rewarded Blake Bortles with a three-year, \$54 million deal. A year later, after a 5-11 finish, the Jaguars have moved on. Bortles, the third overall pick in 2014, went 24-49 with a 59.3 completion percentage, 103 touchdowns, 75 interceptions, an 80.6 passer rating and two playoff wins.

The Jaguars cut Bortles and signed Nick Foles. Foles, 30, went 4-1 in the postseason the past two seasons, winning Super Bowl LII MVP honors.

But Foles has never started more than 11 games in a season, nor has he passed for more than 2,900 yards in a season.

For the first time, he is the undisputed starter on a team placing its hopes on his right shoulder. New Jaguars offensive coordinator John DeFilippo worked with Foles when both were with the Eagles in

2017. DeFilippo called Foles the "perfect fit" for what the Jaguars want to do on offense.

If Foles can do what he did in Philadelphia, the Jags could resemble the team they were in 2017 rather than the one they were in 2018.



7.

A Giant mess at quarterback



The Giants traded Odell Beckham Jr. They chose not to franchise Landon Collins, instead letting him walk in free agency. Then, when they finally drafted their quarterback of the future, general manager Dave Gettleman was criticized for it.

The Giants took Daniel Jones with the sixth overall pick, raising questions about why they didn't wait until their second first-round pick, No. 17 overall, to take the Duke quarterback. Gettleman said he knew "for a fact" two other teams had interest in Jones.

That's neither here nor there now. Jones becomes the heir apparent to Eli Manning, and the future could come sooner than later.

Manning has a \$23.2 million salary cap number for 2019, the final year of his deal. Although he is the 14th-highest paid quarterback in the NFL, he no longer plays like the 14th-best quarterback in the NFL. Manning, 38, is 8-23 over the past two seasons, with 40 touchdowns, 24 interceptions and an 86.4 passer rating.

The Giants have posted a winning record only once in the last six seasons, and they look no better this season. Despite Gettleman saying the Giants can win while rebuilding, it seems unlikely they will contend with Manning as their quarterback.

So how long is it until Manning hands off to Jones?



Todd Gurley's knee

Todd Gurley's left knee has become the most-talked-about knee in the NFL since he sat out the final two regular-season games with what the Rams called inflammation. Gurley did not need postseason surgery, but he reportedly has arthritis.

The Rams will try to better manage Gurley's workload in hopes of keeping him healthy for the long run. It's a big reason why they matched the offer Malcolm Brown received from the Lions as a restricted free agent.

Gurley has averaged 326 touches per season over the past three seasons, playing a big role in the Rams' status as a contender the past two seasons. The 2018

postseason was a different story, though. Gurley gained 118 yards from scrimmage against the Cowboys in the divisional round before playing a complementary role the rest of the way. Although he didn't appear on the injury report before the NFC Championship Game or the Super Bowl, Gurley had only 16 touches for 47 yards and one touchdown in those two games combined.

Will Gurley look like himself this season? How involved will he be? The Rams may not even know those answers until the regular season begins, although head coach Sean McVay insists the offense will continue to center around Gurley.



9. Antonio Brown, Le'Veon Bell start over

The Steelers believe they are better without the All-Pro duo of Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell. Time will tell.

The departure of Bell in free agency and Brown via trade has left Ben Roethlisberger as the unquestioned leader in Pittsburgh. James Conner, 24, rushed for 973 yards and 12 touchdowns last season and now is charged with replacing Bell full time. JuJu Smith-Schuster, 22, was voted the team's MVP last season by his teammates after catching 111 passes for 1,426 yards and seven touchdowns. Conner and Smith-Schuster, though, have huge cleats to fill as Bell and Brown contributed a combined 2,409 touches for 19,322 yards and 116 touchdowns during their time in Pittsburgh.

The Steelers traded Brown to the Raiders after a drama-filled end to the 2018 season. A rift in the relationship between Brown and Roethlisberger led to the Steelers opting to move Brown for less than he's worth after he contributed 11,207 receiving yards and 74 touchdowns in nine seasons. He gives Derek Carr the best weapon the QB has had in his six seasons in Oakland.

Bell, 27, sat out last season rather than sign the franchise tag for a second consecutive season after an NFL-high 406 touches in 2017. He signed a four-year, \$52.5 million deal with the Jets and will take pressure off second-year quarterback Sam Darnold.

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10. MVP repeat?

No one has repeated as NFL MVP since Peyton Manning in 2008-09. Patrick Mahomes left no doubt he was the MVP last season, dominating the league like few second-year quarterbacks have.

Manning was 27 and in his sixth season when he won his first MVP award; Tom Brady was 30 years old and in his eighth season; and Brett Favre was 26 and in his fifth season. Mahomes is only 23, with only 17 career regular-season starts.

Mahomes started only one game as a rookie in 2017 but played like a longtime veteran in 2018. He went 12-4 in the regular season with 5,097 passing yards, an NFL-best 50 touchdowns and a 113.8 passer rating. Can he improve on those numbers?

He and the Chiefs certainly believe they can improve their postseason results. While Mahomes threw three touchdowns and no interceptions in the AFC Championship Game, he went only 16-of-31 for 295 yards in the 37-31 overtime loss to the Patriots.

The Chiefs remade their defense, hiring a new defensive coordinator in Steve Spagnuolo, saying goodbye to Eric Berry, Justin Houston and Dee Ford, while signing Tyrann Mathieu, Alex Okafor and Bashaud Breeland and trading for Frank Clark. But the Chiefs will go only as far as their superstar quarterback takes them.

11.

Embracing change
in Green Bay

The Packers signed Aaron Rodgers to a record-breaking extension worth \$134 million last year. He went 6-9-1, prompting the team to make wholesale changes for a second consecutive offseason.

Packers president Mark Murphy says Rodgers needs to embrace change.

Change was needed as Rodgers and coach Mike McCarthy had a strained relationship for a long time. Rodgers has a new head coach in Matt LaFleur, a new offensive coordinator in Nathaniel Hackett and a new quarterbacks

coach in Luke Getsy. Receiver Randall Cobb, linebacker Clay Matthews and linebacker Nick Perry have left, and linebacker Za'Darius Smith, safety Adrian Amos, linebacker Preston Smith and offensive lineman Billy Turner have arrived.

But Rodgers remains the story, with questions about his "coachability" dominating the headlines. True or not, Rodgers' legacy has taken a hit.

The bottom line: Rodgers and Green Bay are married for the foreseeable future. They need to figure out a way to make it work.



12.

Aaron Donald three-peat?

Aaron Donald has earned Defensive Player of the Year honors the past two years. No player ever has won three in a row. J.J. Watt won three in four years, taking the honor in 2012, '14 and '15. Former Giants linebacker Lawrence Taylor is the only other man to win three Defensive Player of the Year awards.

Donald has played only five seasons and already ranks as one of the best defensive tackles in NFL history. He had a league-leading 20.5 sacks last season and has 59.5 in his career.

Donald won't have Ndamukong Suh beside him on the Rams defense, but he didn't have Suh two years ago when he made 11 sacks and forced five fumbles.

It's a good bet Donald again will end the season as a candidate for Defensive Player of the Year, with Khalil Mack, Von Miller, Watt and Joey Bosa also expected to be contenders.



Mahomes: Josh Umphrey; Rodgers, Donald, Wentz: Peter Brouillet; Brees: Harrison McClary; Bears: AP



13.

One more for Drew Brees?

The past two seasons have ended in heartbreak for Drew Brees. The Saints were 10 seconds from winning a divisional playoff game over the Vikings in 2017 when Minnesota delivered a miracle, stunning New Orleans on Stefon Diggs' last-second touchdown. A year later, the Saints were on the wrong end of a controversial no-call in the NFC Championship Game loss to the Rams, which has led to expanded replay this season.

Brees is back for another, hoping for a better ending. The Saints have nothing to show for a 26-10 record, including the postseason, over the past two seasons. The team's lone Super Bowl was nine years ago, and the window is closing.

Brees is 40 and entering his 19th season, and rumors persist that the Cowboys could make a run at Sean Payton. Payton, Brees and the Saints have this season, though, and hopes of a second Super Bowl title for the city before the sun sets.

14. Carson Wentz's rebound

The Eagles no longer have Nick Foles as an insurance policy, and in Nate Sudfeld they do not trust. So Philadelphia needs Carson Wentz to stay healthy and play as he did in 2017 before injuring his knee.

Wentz, 26, has missed eight regular-season games the past two seasons and has never started a postseason game. He was only 5-6 as a starter last season, with

Foles getting the Eagles to the postseason. Foles went 4-1 the past two postseasons.

A story this offseason painted Wentz as selfish, uncompromising and egotistical, and while pushing back against parts of the story, he vowed to become a better teammate.

Wentz still has much to prove as he enters his fourth season.



15. Super Bowl Shuffle?

The Bears won their only Super Bowl with flair — and a “Super Bowl Shuffle” — in 1985. That team had characters and stars in William “Refrigerator” Perry, Jim McMahon, Willie Gault, Walter Payton and Mike Singletary.

The 2019 Bears have the makings of some stars and some characters in Khalil Mack, Mitchell Trubisky, Akiem Hicks, Kyle Fuller and Eddie Jackson. Do they have enough buoyancy to make a remix of the “Super Bowl Shuffle” and enough talent to win it all this season?

The Bears almost reached the divisional round last season, but Cody Parkey's 43-yard field goal attempt in the waning seconds hit the left upright and then the crossbar. The Bears' 16-15 loss to the Eagles cost Parkey his job



and has the Bears even more motivated to get done what they didn't do last season.

Chicago added safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, cornerback Buster Skrine, running back Mike Davis, returner Cordarrelle Patterson, and offensive lineman Ted Larsen among others in free agency. The Bears are the clear favorites in the NFC North, but they want more than another division title and appear to have the goods to contend.

NFL PLAYER RANKINGS



PATRICK MAHOMES

TOP 50 PLAYERS

1. **Patrick Mahomes**, QB, Kansas City
2. **Aaron Donald**, DE, L.A. Rams
3. **Tom Brady**, QB, New England
4. **Khalil Mack**, OLB, Chicago
5. **Ezekiel Elliott**, RB, Dallas
6. **J.J. Watt**, DE, Houston
7. **Julio Jones**, WR, Atlanta
8. **Von Miller**, OLB, Denver
9. **Luke Kuechly**, ILB, Carolina
10. **Drew Brees**, QB, New Orleans
11. **Aaron Rodgers**, QB, Green Bay
12. **Bobby Wagner**, ILB, Seattle
13. **Antonio Brown**, WR, Oakland
14. **Ben Roethlisberger**, QB, Pittsburgh
15. **Calais Campbell**, DE, Jacksonville
16. **Chandler Jones**, OLB, Arizona
17. **Odell Beckham Jr.**, WR, Cleveland
18. **DeAndre Hopkins**, WR, Houston
19. **Stephon Gilmore**, CB, New England
20. **Zach Ertz**, TE, Philadelphia
21. **Fletcher Cox**, DT, Philadelphia
22. **David Bakhtiari**, OT, Green Bay
23. **Saquon Barkley**, RB, N.Y. Giants
24. **Todd Gurley**, RB, L.A. Rams
25. **Andrew Luck**, QB, Indianapolis
26. **Travis Kelce**, TE, Kansas City
27. **Myles Garrett**, DE, Cleveland
28. **Eddie Jackson**, S, Chicago
29. **Michael Thomas**, WR, New Orleans
30. **Kyle Fuller**, CB, Chicago
31. **Patrick Peterson**, CB Arizona
32. **Le'Veon Bell**, RB, N.Y. Jets
33. **Zack Martin**, OG, Dallas
34. **Alvin Kamara**, RB, New Orleans
35. **Jason Kelce**, C, Philadelphia
36. **Cameron Jordan**, DE, New Orleans
37. **Jamal Adams**, S, N.Y. Jets
38. **Joey Bosa**, DE, L.A. Chargers
39. **Derwin James**, S, L.A. Chargers
40. **Ryan Kerrigan**, OLB, Washington
41. **Philip Rivers**, QB, L.A. Chargers
42. **Russell Wilson**, QB, Seattle
43. **Danielle Hunter**, DE, Minnesota
44. **Demarcus Lawrence**, DE, Dallas
45. **Julian Edelman**, WR, New England
46. **Darius Leonard**, OLB, Indianapolis
47. **Chris Jones**, DT, Kansas City
48. **Devin McCourty**, S, New England
49. **Mitchell Schwartz**, OT, Kansas City
50. **Andrew Whitworth**, OT, L.A. Rams

Mahomes: Josh Umphrey; Brady: W.E. Smith III; Ben: Harrison McClary

QB

1. PATRICK MAHOMES, KANSAS CITY

So much for the expected growing pains from a first-year NFL starter. His ridiculous arm talent was on display throughout a 2018 campaign in which Mahomes joined Peyton Manning and Tom Brady as the only QBs ever to throw for 50-plus touchdowns in a single season.

2. TOM BRADY, NEW ENGLAND

The greatest QB in NFL history continues to pad his Hall of Fame résumé with Super Bowl victories (six and counting after last season's win over the L.A. Rams). His 30 postseason victories individually are more wins than all but four entire franchises have earned in their history.

3. DREW BREES, NEW ORLEANS

Breaking the NFL's all-time passing record was just one of the things that made 2018 special for Brees. He also set new standards for all-time completions (6,586) and single-season completion percentage (74.4) on a Saints team that reached the NFC title game for the first time in a decade.

4. AARON RODGERS, GREEN BAY

A down 2018 season for him is the equivalent of a career year for most other QBs. But now playing in a different offense under new head coach Matt LaFleur, Rodgers will be looking to lift his completion percentage (62.3) and improve his lowest touchdown total (25) in a season in which he started 16 games.

5. BEN ROETHLISBERGER, PITTSBURGH

His prowess as a team leader has come into question, but there's no denying what Big Ben provides on the field. The NFL's 2018 passing leader (5,129 yards) has thrown at least 15 touchdown passes in each of his first 15 NFL seasons, which no QB has ever done before.



BEN ROETHLISBERGER



6. ANDREW LUCK, INDIANAPOLIS

His 2018 comeback from major shoulder problems couldn't have gone any smoother as Luck instantly meshed with new head coach Frank Reich. Set single-season career highs in completions, attempts, completion percentage and passer rating while leading the Colts to wins in nine of their final 10 games to reach the playoffs.

7. PHILIP RIVERS, L.A. CHARGERS

"Old Man Rivers" shows no signs of slowing down at age 37. Among his highlights in 2018 was completing an NFL-record 25 consecutive passes in a rout of Arizona.

8. RUSSELL WILSON, SEATTLE

Now the highest-paid player in NFL history, Wilson has enjoyed more wins (75) in his first seven seasons than any other starting QB in league history. Thrived in new coordinator Brian Schottenheimer's offense last season with a career-high 35 touchdown passes.

9. MATT RYAN, ATLANTA

Extended the NFL's longest active streak of 4,000-yard passing seasons to eight in 2018. He has set 21 franchise passing records during his 11 years in Atlanta.

10. DAK PRESCOTT, DALLAS

Coming off the best season (statistically) of his three-year career while raising his regular-season win total to 32, which ranks second behind New England's Tom Brady (35) for most among any QBs since 2016. The key to continued improvement in 2019 — better red zone efficiency.

11. **Cam Newton**
Carolina
12. **Deshaun Watson**
Houston
13. **Jared Goff**
L.A. Rams
14. **Baker Mayfield**
Cleveland
15. **Matthew Stafford**
Detroit
16. **Carson Wentz**
Philadelphia
17. **Nick Foles**
Jacksonville
18. **Derek Carr**
Oakland
19. **Mitchell Trubisky**
Chicago
20. **Sam Darnold**
N.Y. Jets
21. **Kirk Cousins**
Minnesota
22. **Jimmy Garoppolo**
San Francisco
23. **Marcus Mariota**
Tennessee
24. **Josh Allen**
Buffalo
25. **Eli Manning**
N.Y. Giants
26. **Jameis Winston**
Tampa Bay
27. **Joe Flacco**
Denver
28. **Andy Dalton**
Cincinnati
29. **Lamar Jackson**
Baltimore
30. **Case Keenum**
Washington

RB

1. EZEKIEL ELLIOTT, DALLAS

Became the fifth rusher since the AFL-NFL merger in 1970 to win rushing titles in two of his first three seasons. Three of those RBs — Earl Campbell, Eric Dickerson and Emmitt Smith — are in the Hall of Fame; the fourth (Edgerrin James) was a 2019 finalist.

2. SAQUON BARKLEY, N.Y. GIANTS

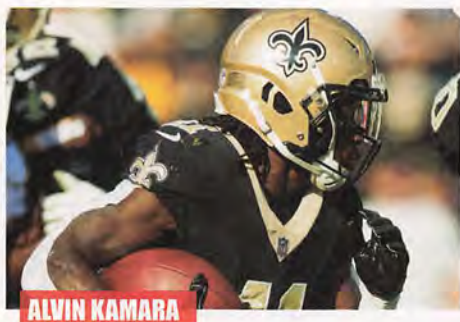
Say what you will about the Giants passing on top QB prospects with the No. 2 overall pick in last year's draft, but Barkley did everything on his part to justify his selection. He capped the greatest rookie season for an RB in franchise history (2,028 scrimmage yards and 15 TDs) by being named the NFL's Offensive Rookie of the Year.

3. TODD GURLEY, L.A. RAMS

Voted an All-Pro running back for a second straight year in 2018, but there are legitimate concerns about future production because of knee issues that flared late last season. Rams head coach Sean McVay has said Gurley's workload will be more closely monitored moving forward.

4. LE'VEON BELL, N.Y. JETS

Made the unusual decision of sitting out the entire 2018 season rather than play under a \$14.5 million franchise tag while in a contract dispute with Pittsburgh. The Jets are expecting Bell to regain his previous tip-top form after signing him to a four-year, \$52 million deal.



5. ALVIN KAMARA, NEW ORLEANS

A red zone nightmare for opposing defenses, having rushed for a franchise-record 14 touchdowns in 2018 while adding four more scores as a receiver. Likely to play an even bigger role in the ground game this season with Mark Ingram having departed for Baltimore.

6. JOE MIXON, CINCINNATI

The Bengals lost nine of their final 11 games in 2018, but the running game wasn't the problem. Even while missing two games with a knee injury, Mixon became the first Bengals running back to lead the conference in rushing (1,168 yards) since Paul Robinson in 1968.

7. CHRISTIAN MCCAFFREY, CAROLINA

Smashed the NFL's single-season receiving record for RBs with 107 catches, but don't underestimate him as a rusher either (1,098 yards and a 5.0-yard average). Joins Herschel Walker and Alvin Kamara as the only players in NFL history with 1,500 rushing and receiving yards through two seasons.

8. DERRICK HENRY, TENNESSEE

Lived up to his "King" nickname late in 2018, with 55.2 percent of his 1,059 rushing yards coming in the final four games, including a tour-de-force performance versus Jacksonville. Two highlights — a 99-yard touchdown run, and the 6'3", 247-pound Henry hitting a speed of 21.74 miles per hour on a 54-yard score.

9. MELVIN GORDON, L.A. CHARGERS

A late-season knee injury derailed what was becoming the most prolific season of his four-year NFL career. Became the fifth running back in NFL history, and first since Jamaal Charles in 2013, to post five straight games of at least 120 yards from scrimmage along with at least one rushing or receiving touchdown.

10. KAREEM HUNT, CLEVELAND

Will miss the 2019 season's first eight games serving an NFL suspension for violating the league's personal conduct policy. But based upon his first two years in Kansas City, the NFL's 2017 rushing champion should make a significant impact in Cleveland upon his return.

11. **Sony Michel**
New England
12. **James Conner**
Pittsburgh
13. **Phillip Lindsay**
Denver
14. **Chris Carson**
Seattle
15. **Nick Chubb**
Cleveland
16. **Dalvin Cook**
Minnesota
17. **LeSean McCoy**
Buffalo
18. **David Johnson**
Arizona
19. **Adrian Peterson**
Washington
20. **Lamar Miller**
Houston
21. **Mark Ingram**
Baltimore
22. **Leonard Fournette**
Jacksonville
23. **Jordan Howard**
Philadelphia
24. **Tarik Cohen**
Chicago
25. **Kerryon Johnson**
Detroit
26. **Marlon Mack**
Indianapolis
27. **Frank Gore**
Buffalo
28. **Devonta Freeman**
Atlanta
29. **Tevin Coleman**
San Francisco
30. **James White**
New England



1. JULIO JONES, ATLANTA

Matt Ryan's reliance on No. 11 is reflected by Jones' 2018 NFL-high total of third down catches for first downs (24). Led the NFL with 1,677 receiving yards, making Jones the first player in NFL history to record five straight seasons with 1,400-plus receiving yards and 80-plus receptions.

2. ANTONIO BROWN, OAKLAND

After a disastrous end to the 2018 season in Pittsburgh, "A.B." got what he wanted this offseason — a fresh start away from Ben Roethlisberger along with a pay raise. Now it's on Brown to leave the past behind and resume the elite-level play that is producing Hall of Fame-level production.

3. ODELL BECKHAM JR., CLEVELAND

The Browns were ecstatic to capitalize upon the dysfunctional relationship between OBJ and the N.Y. Giants that led to his offseason trade. A happy OBJ working with quarterback Baker Mayfield and fellow wideout (and close friend) Jarvis Landry should make opposing cornerbacks miserable.



4. DEANDRE HOPKINS, HOUSTON

An overwhelming first-team All-Pro selection who has always produced regardless of adverse circumstances such as injuries at QB (Deshaun Watson in 2017) and wide receiver (Will Fuller V in 2018). Played on a higher percentage of offensive snaps (99.09) than any other wide receiver, running back or tight end in 2018.

5. MICHAEL THOMAS, NEW ORLEANS

The first Saints receiver elected to consecutive Pro Bowls since Joe Horn in 2001-02 — and for good reason. His 321 career catches are the most ever by a player through his first three NFL seasons.

6. JULIAN EDELMAN, NEW ENGLAND

It's no coincidence that New England's passing offense averaged 60.9 yards more per game (281.4) for the final 12 contests last season after Edelman returned from a four-game PED suspension. His 115 postseason receptions rank second all-time behind Jerry Rice (151).

7. MIKE EVANS, TAMPA BAY

Attempting to join Randy Moss in 2019 as the only players ever to open their careers with six consecutive 1,000-yard receiving seasons. He's already the leading receiver in Bucs history (6,103 yards).

8. T.Y. HILTON, INDIANAPOLIS

No opponent knows how good Hilton is more than the Houston Texans. In 15 career games against his AFC South rival, Hilton has caught 81 passes for 1,530 yards and nine touchdowns.

9. JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER, PITTSBURGH

His emergence after two NFL seasons made it easier for the Steelers to part ways with discontented Antonio Brown. Voted the Steelers' 2018 MVP by his teammates after finishing in the top six among all wide receivers in 100-yard games (eight), receiving yards (1,426), catches (111), and receptions for first downs (68).



10. AMARI COOPER, DALLAS

All the critics who believed the Cowboys overpaid by sending Oakland a 2019 first-round pick for Cooper midway through last season were silenced by the immediate impact he made. He was the NFL's ninth-leading receiver between Weeks 9 and 17, with an especially big impact on third downs (13 first downs on 17 catches).

11. **A.J. Green**, Cincinnati
12. **Larry Fitzgerald**, Arizona
13. **Keenan Allen**, L.A. Chargers
14. **Adam Thielen**, Minnesota
15. **Davante Adams**, Green Bay
16. **Jarvis Landry**, Cleveland
17. **Emmanuel Sanders**, Denver
18. **Stefon Diggs**, Minnesota
19. **Brandin Cooks**, L.A. Rams
20. **Tyler Boyd**, Cincinnati
21. **Kenny Golladay**, Detroit
22. **Golden Tate**, N.Y. Giants
23. **Robby Anderson**, N.Y. Jets
24. **Robert Woods**, L.A. Rams
25. **Adam Humphries**, Tennessee
26. **Alshon Jeffery**, Philadelphia
27. **Tyler Lockett**, Seattle
28. **Will Fuller V**, Houston
29. **Sterling Shepard**, N.Y. Giants
30. **Allen Robinson II**, Chicago



1. ZACH ERTZ, PHILADELPHIA

Shattered the NFL's single-season receiving record for tight ends with 116 grabs for 1,163 yards and eight TDs. His 437 career catches are also the most ever by a tight end through his first six seasons.

2. TRAVIS KELCE, KANSAS CITY

Eclipsing single-season franchise records for catches (103) and yards (1,336) set by 2019 first-ballot Hall of Fame selection Tony Gonzalez highlighted Kelce's third straight 1,000-yard receiving campaign. Particularly adept at out routes, with his biggest strength the ability to create downfield mismatches.

3. GEORGE KITTLE, SAN FRANCISCO

Stunned the NFL by coming out of nowhere to break the league's single-season receiving yardage record for a tight end (1,377). Making this feat even more impressive, Kittle was forced to work with three different 49ers quarterbacks (Jimmy Garoppolo, C.J. Beathard and Nick Mullens) along the way.

4. ERIC EBON, INDIANAPOLIS

Whether prompted by a change of scenery or a better professional approach than what he delivered in Detroit, Ebron finally showcased why he was the 10th overall pick in the 2014 draft. His 13 TD catches led all tight ends in 2018 and tied for second among all pass catchers.

5. KYLE RUDOLPH, MINNESOTA

The negative — he almost certainly won't be compiling his first 1,000-yard receiving season unless there is a considerable role change in the

Vikings' new Gary Kubiak/Kevin Stefanski offense. The positive — he's an effective blocker who should be a more attractive red zone target after catching only four TD passes in 2018.

6. KYLE JUSZCZYK (FB), SAN FRANCISCO

His versatility as rusher, receiver and blocker inspired head coach Kyle Shanahan to give Juszczyk 663 snaps — far more than any other full-back in the NFL and second among all 49ers skill position players behind tight end George Kittle (929). "He's pretty unique," one scouting director says.

7. AUSTIN HOOPER, ATLANTA

Yet another tight end who has made Stanford the college epicenter for the position among NFL teams. Caught a career-high 71 passes, but it would behoove new offensive coordinator Dirk Koetter to try and raise Hooper's 9.3 yards-per-reception average and generate more than four TDs as a red zone target.

8. JARED COOK, NEW ORLEANS

Raiders head coach Jon Gruden got more out of Cook receiving-wise (68 catches for 896 yards and six touchdowns) than in any of his previous nine NFL seasons. Could flourish with the Saints if used in a similar fashion as Jimmy Graham.

9. EVAN ENGRAM, N.Y. GIANTS

He's publicly embracing the 2019 challenge of trying to replace the offensive production lost by the Giants' offseason trade of Odell Beckham Jr. to Cleveland. Battled through injuries much of last season but showcased his playmaking skills in the final three games with 19 catches for 243 yards and a touchdown.

10. JAMES DEVELIN (FB), NEW ENGLAND

The Patriots took a page from the past and frequently deployed "22 personnel" with devastating effect when pairing Develin and running back Sony Michel in a two-tight end package with Rob Gronkowski and Dwayne Allen. Paved the way for Michel on the only touchdown scored in New England's Super Bowl 53 win over the L.A. Rams.

11. **Hunter Henry**, L.A. Chargers
12. **David Njoku**, Cleveland
13. **Delanie Walker**, Tennessee
14. **Jimmy Graham**, Green Bay
15. **Greg Olsen**, Carolina
16. **Vance McDonald**, Pittsburgh
17. **Cameron Brate**, Tampa Bay
18. **Trey Burton**, Chicago
19. **Jesse James**, Detroit
20. **Mark Andrews**, Baltimore

1. DAVID BAKHTIARI, GREEN BAY

Might have done his best work in 2018 considering it took Aaron Rodgers an average of almost three seconds to fire off a pass, which ranked as the NFL's fourth-slowest release time last season. He is Green Bay's first first-team All-Pro tackle selection since Forrest Gregg in 1967, although as one long-time NFL offensive lineman said: "He still probably doesn't get the credit he deserves."

2. MITCHELL SCHWARTZ, KANSAS CITY

Pro Football Focus proclaimed him the NFL's best lineman last season after he allowed just 23 pressures on 687 drop-backs and was one of only three tackles to rank in their top 10 for both run and pass blocking. Has never missed an NFL snap with his streak now at 7,000-plus entering his eighth season.

3. ANDREW WHITWORTH, L.A. RAMS

He must be drinking from the Tom Brady Fountain of Youth. Still among the best all-around blockers and pass protectors at age 37.

4. RYAN RAMCZYK, NEW ORLEANS

Picked up the baton from mainstay Zach Strief in 2017 and hasn't stopped running with it since. Speaking of which, Ramczyk was voted the NFL's best run-blocking offensive lineman in 2018 by Pro Football Focus.

5. TERRON ARMSTEAD, NEW ORLEANS

A six-game absence in 2018 continued a brutal injury history that has forced Armstead out of 21 games the past three seasons. But he was dominant as usual when healthy, not allowing a sack and committing just one penalty for five yards in 10 regular-season starts.

6. LANE JOHNSON, PHILADELPHIA

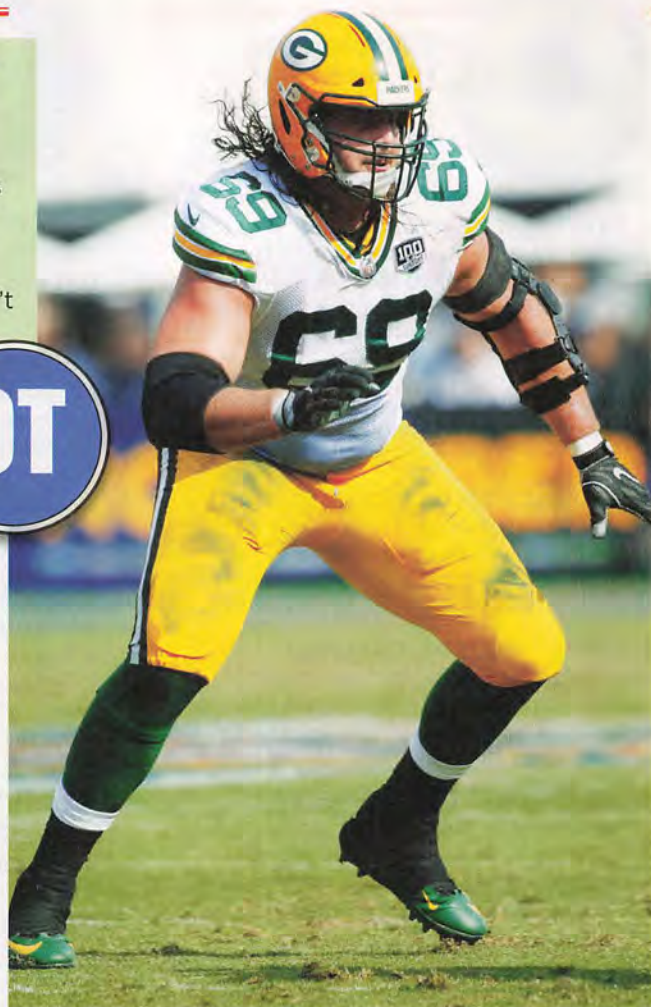
Translated the skills learned from the grave-digger job he held in high school into burying defensive linemen, as Houston and Chicago experienced in two huge 2018 Eagles victories. Admitted disappointment at not being voted to the 2018 Pro Bowl will provide fuel for the 2019 season.

7. TYRON SMITH, DALLAS

Was arguably the NFL's best tackle until injuries forced him to miss three games each of the past three seasons. But even when he was ailing in 2018, the Cowboys credited Smith with not allowing a sack in 15 games (13 regular-season and two playoff).



TYRON SMITH



8. JOE STALEY, SAN FRANCISCO

The longest-tenured 49ers player by a wide margin (2007) remains an imposing force on San Francisco's offensive line at age 34. Retirement isn't in the cards, either, with Staley stating this offseason that he wants "to play as long as I can" — although his 49ers contract is set to expire after the 2019 campaign.

9. TAYLOR LEWAN, TENNESSEE

Flipping off an overhead television camera while being treated for an injury during a prime-time game symbolizes his rugged approach to football. With three straight Pro Bowl selections, he's the franchise's most productive left tackle since Leon Gray roughly 40 years ago.

10. JASON PETERS, PHILADELPHIA

The Eagles have so much trust in Peters and respect for what he provides as part of the team's fabric that he's back for a 16th NFL season. "He still plays well," one longtime offensive line coach says.

11. **Laremy Tunsil**
Miami
12. **Trent Williams**
Washington
13. **Eric Fisher**
Kansas City
14. **Mike McGlinchey**
San Francisco
15. **Marcus Cannon**
New England
16. **Trent Brown**
Oakland
17. **Donovan Smith**
Tampa Bay
18. **Jake Matthews**
Atlanta
19. **Alejandro Villanueva**
Pittsburgh
20. **Charles Leno Jr.**
Chicago

C

1. JASON KELCE, PHILADELPHIA

The first Eagles player to receive consecutive first-team All-Pro nods since 1991-92.

2. TRAVIS FREDERICK, DALLAS

The NFL's top center the previous few seasons is expected to recover from Guillain-Barre syndrome to anchor the Cowboys' vaunted offensive line in 2019.

3. ALEX MACK, ATLANTA

The best player on a line that helped Atlanta finish fourth in passing (284.9 ypg) and eighth in total offense (389.1 ypg) in 2018.

4. MAURKICE POUNCEY, PITTSBURGH

Earned the seventh Pro Bowl of his nine-year NFL career. Has avoided injury the past three years after having two seasons (2013 and 2015) wiped out by leg ailments.

5. RODNEY HUDSON, OAKLAND

An outstanding pass blocker who was named a Pro Bowl alternate while playing every snap at center in 2018 despite dealing with knee and ankle problems.

6. MIKE POUNCEY, L.A. CHARGERS

Enjoyed a wildly successful first season with the Chargers. He's a big reason why L.A. averaged almost 20 more rushing yards per game (117.1) than the previous year.

7. MATT PARADIS, CAROLINA

Suffered a lower leg injury that caused the Broncos to cool on re-signing him. There was no hesitation by the Panthers, who needed a strong replacement for Ryan Kalil.

8. BRANDON LINDER, JACKSONVILLE

Nasty, no-nonsense blocker who was sorely missed after becoming one of four Jaguars starting offensive linemen to land on injured reserve in 2018.

9. MITCH MORSE, BUFFALO

The Bills wanted a top-tier center to help in the development of young quarterback Josh Allen. Morse fits the bill.

10. DAVID ANDREWS, NEW ENGLAND

Has earned gushing praise from Patriots head coach Bill Belichick, particularly for being adept at recognizing defensive fronts and helping to set New England's pass protections.

11. **Ryan Kelly**, Indianapolis
12. **Corey Linsley**, Green Bay
13. **Justin Britt**, Seattle
14. **Ryan Jensen**, Tampa Bay
15. **Pat Elflein**, Minnesota
16. **Weston Richburg**, San Francisco
17. **Matt Skura**, Baltimore
18. **Ben Jones**, Tennessee
19. **J.C. Tretter**, Cleveland
20. **Nick Martin**, Houston

G

1. ZACK MARTIN, DALLAS

Should return to elite status provided the knee injuries that hindered his 2018 season don't linger. Still gutted his way through 82 percent of the Cowboys' offensive snaps and committed only one penalty — a false start.

2. DAVID DECASTRO, PITTSBURGH

A key contributor in an offense that produced a franchise-record 54 TDs in 2018. He amassed 958 snaps without allowing a sack despite playing with an injury.

3. QUENTON NELSON, INDIANAPOLIS

Already considered a generational-caliber guard despite a self-admitted lapse in technique late in the 2018 season. Nelson and linebacker Darius Leonard became the first pair of rookies from the same team to earn first-team All-Pro honors in more than five decades.

4. BRANDON SCHERFF, WASHINGTON

The Redskins' postseason chances were shot when Scherff and his some of his deputies along the line went down with injuries. He should be playing at a blue-chip level again after returning from a torn pectoral muscle.

5. KEVIN ZEITLER, N.Y. GIANTS

The NFL's first \$12 million-a-year guard was traded after two seasons in Cleveland by GM John Dorsey, who needed to surrender a quality player to land coveted Giants defense end Olivier Vernon. Zeitler is an outstanding pass protector, which is critical with a quarterback of limited mobility like Eli Manning under center.

ZACK MARTIN

**6. MARSHAL YANDA, BALTIMORE**

Run-blocking ability was on display when the Ravens switched to a ground-based offense under rookie QB Lamar Jackson.

7. JOE THUNEY, NEW ENGLAND

Spearheaded the Patriots' successful effort to nullify the Rams' Aaron Donald in Super Bowl 53. The first player in NFL history to start three Super Bowls in his first three seasons.

8. BRANDON BROOKS, PHILADELPHIA

Brooks' ultimate return from an Achilles injury will add some oomph to a running game bolstered by the offseason trade for Chicago's Jordan Howard.

9. RODGER SAFFOLD, TENNESSEE

Standout 2018 season led to a big contract (\$22.5 million guaranteed) from the Titans. Saffold was key to the Rams boasting the only offense to finish in the NFL's top five in rushing and passing yards.

10. SHAQ MASON, NEW ENGLAND

The Patriots, who are notoriously shy about paying offensive linemen, knew Mason's value when signing him to a five-year, \$50 million extension during the 2018 preseason.

11. **Kelechi Osemele**, N.Y. Jets
12. **Trai Turner**, Carolina
13. **Andrew Norwell**, Jacksonville
14. **Andrus Peat**, New Orleans
15. **Ali Marpet**, Tampa Bay
16. **Ramon Foster**, Pittsburgh
17. **Gabe Jackson**, Oakland
18. **Ron Leary**, Denver
19. **Larry Warford**, New Orleans
20. **Frank Ragnow**, Detroit

DT

4-3 DEFENSIVE TACKLES AND 3-4 NOSE TACKLES

1. FLETCHER COX, PHILADELPHIA

Now the all-time leader in sacks (44.5) and Pro Bowl appearances (four) for an Eagles defensive tackle. Three of his eight career multi-sack games came in 2018, contributing to a career-high 10.5 sacks for the season.

2. CHRIS JONES, KANSAS CITY

Ascended to the ranks of the NFL's elite interior pass rushers in 2018, which is a distinction that shouldn't change even with his pending move from 3-4 end to 4-3 DT in new Chiefs coordinator Steve Spagnuolo's scheme. Set the NFL's all-time record for consecutive games with a sack (11) en route to 15.5 on the season.

3. DEFOREST BUCKNER, SAN FRANCISCO

Became the first 49ers defender with 12-plus sacks since Aldon Smith in 2012. Could be even more productive in 2019 with the 49ers improving their pass-rush talent in the offseason.

4. GENO ATKINS, CINCINNATI

One of the few bright spots on the NFL's most porous defense in 2018. With 71 career sacks, he has a legitimate chance of breaking Eddie Edwards' franchise record of 83.5 in 2019.

5. GRADY JARRETT, ATLANTA

Considered such a valuable part of the Falcons defense that he was given a one-year, \$15.2 million franchise tag to prevent him from leaving in free agency. Has increased his sack total each of the past four seasons with a career-high six in 2018.



GRADY JARRETT

6. SHELDON RANKINS, NEW ORLEANS

The 2016 first-round pick came on strong during his third NFL season with career highs in tackles (40) and sacks (eight). Must rebound from a torn Achilles tendon in the playoffs that has his availability for the start of the 2019 season in doubt.

7. DAMON HARRISON, DETROIT

The elite run stuffer brought those skills to the Lions after a midseason trade from the Giants. The Lions allowed an average of 83.2 rushing yards in their final nine games compared to 144.6 in the first seven.

8. JURRELL CASEY, TENNESSEE

Remains one of the great interior pass rushers, completing his sixth season with at least five sacks. His 50 QB pressures in 2018 also were a career high.



JURRELL CASEY

9. JARRAN REED, SEATTLE

Entering the final year of his rookie contract, Reed put himself in position for a monster extension with a breakout 2018 season. The 23.5 combined sacks from Reed and end Frank Clark were the highest total by Seahawks teammates since 2007.

10. KAWANN SHORT, CAROLINA

The Panthers are banking on Short and Dontari Poe rebounding from disappointing 2018 seasons. Short's tackle total (42) was his lowest since 2013.

11. Linval Joseph, Minnesota
12. Eddie Goldman, Chicago
13. Kenny Clark, Green Bay
14. Malik Jackson, Philadelphia
15. Sheldon Richardson, Cleveland
16. Ndamukong Suh, TBA
17. Gerald McCoy, Tampa Bay
18. Corey Peters, Arizona
19. Lawrence Guy, New England
20. Da'Ron Payne, Washington



4-3 DEFENSES



1. CALAIS CAMPBELL, JACKSONVILLE

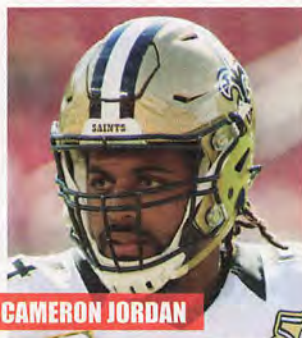
Continues to defy Father Time at age 32 as the NFL's best all-around 4-3 defensive end. Led all edge defenders with a career-high 43 run stops in 2018 per Pro Football Focus, to go along with 10.5 sacks.

2. MYLES GARRETT, CLEVELAND

No Browns player has ever posted more sacks in his first two seasons (20.5) since it became an official NFL statistic in 1982. Should be even more lethal this season with the Browns acquiring complementary end Olivier Vernon from the Giants in an offseason trade.

3. CAMERON JORDAN, NEW ORLEANS

With another 12-sack season in 2019, Jordan (71.5) would climb to second on the franchise's all-time list behind Pro Football Hall of Fame selection Rickey Jackson. Jordan also played a key role on what was the NFL's second-ranked run defense (80.2 ypg) in 2018.



CAMERON JORDAN

4. JOEY BOSA, L.A. CHARGERS

Was never truly 100 percent after returning from a pre-season foot injury in Week 11. Should be able to regain the form in 2019 that led to double-digit sacks each of his first two NFL seasons.

5. DANIELLE HUNTER, MINNESOTA

Ex-teammate Sheldon Richardson praised Hunter last season, saying he has "everything you want in a young defensive end." The 24-year-old Hunter compiled career highs in tackles (72) and sacks (14.5) in 2018.

6. DEMARCUS LAWRENCE, DALLAS

"Tank" continued to steamroll opposing offensive line-men en route to a 10.5-sack season in 2018. Valuable enough to the Cowboys defense that he was re-signed to a five-year, \$105 million contract this offseason.

7. FRANK CLARK, KANSAS CITY

The Chiefs paid a steep price both contractually (five-year, \$104 million with \$62.3 million guaranteed) and in

trade compensation (2019 first- and 2020 second-round picks) to acquire a player who has emerged as a pass-rushing force. He has 17.5 sacks, 37 QB hits and four forced fumbles in his past 22 games.

8. TREY FLOWERS, DETROIT

Received the largest contract (five years, \$90 million) and most guaranteed money (\$56 million) of any player in the 2019 free agent signing class after leading New England in sacks the past three seasons. Can play multiple spots across Detroit's D-line.

9. MELVIN INGRAM, L.A. CHARGERS

Did a nice job last season carrying L.A.'s pass-rush load while Joey Bosa was sidelined with a foot problem. Used at four different defensive positions in 2018, logging 300-plus snaps at both left and right end in Bosa's absence.

10. DEE FORD, SAN FRANCISCO

The 49ers believe Ford will thrive in the Leo position in Robert Saleh's defense after acquiring him in a trade with Kansas City. A 13-sack season in 2018 is sound reason for optimism — provided Ford can once again avoid injuries that have marred his five-year NFL career.



MELVIN INGRAM

11. Michael Bennett, New England
12. Olivier Vernon, Cleveland
13. Mario Addison, Carolina
14. Yannick Ngakoue, Jacksonville
15. Jerry Hughes, Buffalo
16. Justin Houston, Indianapolis
17. Derek Barnett, Philadelphia
18. Carlos Dunlap, Cincinnati
19. Everson Griffen, Minnesota
20. Takkarist McKinley, Atlanta



3-4 DEFENSES

1. AARON DONALD, L.A. RAMS

The reigning NFL Defensive Player of the Year was even more spectacular en route to winning the award for a second straight season. Set the franchise record with an NFL-high 20.5 sacks, throwing quarterbacks for an unprecedented 183.5 yards in losses.



2. J.J. WATT, HOUSTON

Regained his dominating form in 2018 after two injury-ruined seasons. Is the all-time NFL leader in average sacks per game at 0.88 (92 in 104 games), and furthered his penchant for impact plays by forcing seven fumbles, which were four more than any other end last year.

3. CAMERON HEYWARD, PITTSBURGH

With eight sacks last season, raising his career total to 45, Heyward surpassed Aaron Smith (44) for the second-highest total among a Steelers defensive lineman in franchise history. Pittsburgh has never lost a game in which Heyward recorded multiple sacks (9-0).



CAMERON HEYWARD

4. AKIEM HICKS, CHICAGO

His play has been key to the Bears being one of only three teams to allow an average of fewer than 300 yards per game. With 7.5 sacks last season, Hicks is now tied for third with Cam Heyward for most sacks among NFL defensive tackles since 2016 (23).

5. LEONARD WILLIAMS, N.Y. JETS

Hasn't turned as many quarterback hits (85 in four seasons) into sacks (17) as the team had hoped during his first four NFL seasons. That could change in Gregg Williams' scheme in which Williams will be utilized across the defensive line.

6. JONATHAN ALLEN, WASHINGTON

The potential that Allen showed during an injury-shortened 2017 rookie season was no tease. He led all Redskins defensive linemen in tackles (61) and added eight sacks.

7. BRANDON WILLIAMS, BALTIMORE

Proof of his value in Baltimore is reflected in the Ravens' defensive rankings. No team has allowed fewer rushing yards per game (95.1) since he became a starter in 2014.

8. MICHAEL BROCKERS, L.A. RAMS

Overshadowed by Aaron Donald and Ndamukong Suh last season, but Brockers has played a valuable role anchoring the Rams run defense. He's expected to get used as both a nose tackle and 5-technique end in 2019.

9. STEPHON TUITT, PITTSBURGH

He's coming off a transition year learning different techniques under new defensive line coach Karl Dunbar. Focus on improving hand placement and better recognition of blocking schemes should result in Tuitt building upon his 5.5-sack campaign of 2018.

10. MATT IOANNIDIS, WASHINGTON

The most productive season of his young NFL career earned him a three-year, \$21.8 million contract extension this offseason.

The 2016 fifth-round pick from Temple managed a career-high 7.5 sacks and continues to improve as a pass rusher under Redskins defensive line coach Jim Tom-sula.

11. **B.J. Hill**, N.Y. Giants
12. **Henry Anderson**, N.Y. Jets
13. **Dean Lowery**, Green Bay
14. **Carl Nassib**, Tampa Bay
15. **Derek Wolfe**, Denver
16. **Adam Gotsis**, Denver
17. **DaQuan Jones**, Tennessee
18. **D.J. Reader**, Houston
19. **Rodney Gunter**, Arizona
20. **Darius Philon**, Arizona



4-3 DEFENSES

1. DARIUS LEONARD, INDIANAPOLIS

The NFL's Defensive Rookie of the Year has the potential to become this generation's version of Derrick Brooks in the Colts' Tampa-2 defense.

2. ANTHONY BARR, MINNESOTA

True value isn't reflected in his own statistics but in the opportunities Barr creates for others. Teams that don't gameplan around Barr usually get burned — like when he had two of Minnesota's nine sacks in last season's 41-17 rout of Miami.

3. DONT'A HIGHTOWER, NEW ENGLAND

Among the NFL's very best when healthy, he possesses the rare ability to adroitly play both inside and outside linebacker spots, which creates match-up issues for opposing offenses.

4. LAVONTE DAVID, TAMPA BAY

One of the few bright spots on Tampa Bay's maligned defense last season. He will be called upon for more blitzes in Todd Bowles' new system.

5. LEIGHTON VANDER ESCH, DALLAS

Took full advantage of the opportunity created when starter Sean Lee suffered an early-season hamstring injury. Only six years removed from playing eight-man football in high school.

6. TELVIN SMITH, JACKSONVILLE

Play dipped after a strong 2017 season, but he still topped the Jags in tackles (134) for a second straight year.

7. ANTHONY HITCHENS, KANSAS CITY

Flourished in his first season with the Chiefs playing inside linebacker for the first time in a 3-4 defense. He will return to the outside in 2019.

8. LORENZO ALEXANDER, BUFFALO

Special teams standout who didn't blossom at linebacker until his 30s. His 6.5 sacks last season trailed only Baltimore's Terrell Suggs (seven) for the highest output of any player age 35-plus.

9. DEVON KENNARD, DETROIT

Became the first linebacker in franchise history with at least 45 tackles, seven sacks and nine tackles for a loss in a single season.

10. K.J. WRIGHT, SEATTLE

Wright missed 11 games last season with a knee injury but returned with a flourish in the Seahawks' playoff loss to the Cowboys with eight tackles and an athletic end zone interception.

11. **Christian Kirksey**, Cleveland
12. **Demario Davis**, New Orleans
13. **Kiko Alonso**, Miami
14. **Nigel Bradham**, Philadelphia
15. **Tahir Whitehead**, Oakland
16. **Thomas Davis**, L.A. Chargers
17. **De'Vondre Campbell**, Atlanta
18. **Shaq Thompson**, Carolina
19. **Matt Milano**, Buffalo
20. **Fred Warner**, San Francisco



KHALIL MACK



3-4 DEFENSES

1. KHALIL MACK, CHICAGO

Proved he was worth every penny of his record-setting contract following

his preseason acquisition from Oakland. Became the first player ever to force a fumble in the first four games of an NFL season en route to finishing the year with a team-high 12.5 sacks.

2. VON MILLER, DENVER

Rookie Bradley Chubb was able to flourish (12 sacks) in part because of all the attention opposing defenses continue to give Miller, whose career average of 0.82 sacks per game ranks third among players with at least 100 games played.

3. CHANDLER JONES, ARIZONA

Dropped 25 pounds in anticipation of the shift back from defensive end in Vance Joseph's 3-4 defense. He led the NFL in sacks at OLB in 2017 with 17 as part of the league-high 41 he has posted since the 2016 season.

4. RYAN KERRIGAN, WASHINGTON

Broke the franchise record once held by Dexter Manley for most seasons leading the Redskins in sacks with six. He enjoys the longest active starting streak among NFL linebackers with 128 dating to Week 1 of his 2011 rookie season.

5. JADEVEON CLOWNEY, HOUSTON

Just because he hasn't logged double-digit sacks in five seasons shouldn't diminish the impact Clowney makes. Has 53 tackles for a loss since 2016, which is the NFL's third-highest total behind Aaron Donald (57) and Chandler Jones (56).

6. T.J. WATT, PITTSBURGH

Watt's 20 sacks through two seasons are the highest total for a Steelers defender since the league began counting it as an official stat in 1982.

7. JASON PIERRE-PAUL, TAMPA BAY

New Bucs head coach Bruce Arians believes JPP can make the successful transition from 4-3 end to 3-4 OLB in Todd Bowles' defense. There are, however, concerns about his health after being involved in a car accident in May.

8. BRADLEY CHUBB, DENVER

Was the NFL's rookie leader in sacks with 12. New Broncos head coach Vic Fangio has targeted three areas of improvement for Chubb: "Playing the run, doing a little bit of dropping that he'll have to do [in coverage] and improving his pass rush."

9. TERRELL SUGGS, ARIZONA

A desire to play closer to his Phoenix-area home led the NFL's active career sack leader (132.5) to leave the Ravens in free agency.

10. DANTE FOWLER, L.A. RAMS

May finally have found his calling at outside linebacker after three disappointing seasons as a 4-3 end in Jacksonville.

11. **Cameron Wake**, Tennessee
12. **Za'Darius Smith**, Green Bay
13. **Kyler Fackrell**, Green Bay
14. **Clay Matthews**, L.A. Rams
15. **Preston Smith**, Green Bay
16. **Leonard Floyd**, Chicago
17. **Matt Judon**, Baltimore
18. **Jordan Jenkins**, N.Y. Jets
19. **Bud Dupree**, Pittsburgh
20. **Whitney Mercilus**, Houston

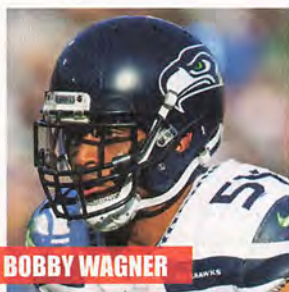


1. LUKE KUECHLY, CAROLINA

Acumen at pre-snap diagnosis reflected by his franchise-record 20 tackles for a loss in 2018. He has more tackles (948), interceptions (17) and takeaways (25) than any other linebacker since entering the NFL as a 2012 first-round pick.

2. BOBBY WAGNER, SEATTLE

Seattle's defense has allowed an average of just 17.4 points in the 103 career games he has played since being a 2012 second-round pick. Only Jack Lambert (15.4) and Ray Nitschke (17.3) have a lower career average among Hall of Fame linebackers.



BOBBY WAGNER

3. C.J. MOSLEY, N.Y. JETS

The Jets made him the highest-paid inside linebacker in NFL history (five years for \$85 million with \$51 million guaranteed) to lure him from Baltimore. Forced 15 turnovers between 2014-18, the second-highest total among all NFL linebackers in that span.

4. DEION JONES, ATLANTA

Of all the injuries that decimated Atlanta's 2018 defense, Jones' 10-game absence hurt the unit most. Has blazing sideline-to-sideline speed and is one of three players who had 14-plus tackles in multiple games last season.

5. JAYLON SMITH, DALLAS

Finally fully recovered from a horrific knee injury suffered at Notre Dame, Smith showcased the skills that had him initially projected as a top-10 pick in the 2016 draft. Proved his speed is back on a 69-yard fumble return for a touchdown against Tampa Bay.

6. BLAKE MARTINEZ, GREEN BAY

Had no trouble transitioning to a new defensive system in 2018 when leading the Packers in tackles (146) for a second straight season. Added bulk this offseason in hopes that improved strength helps generate more turn-over-causing plays.

7. KWON ALEXANDER, SAN FRANCISCO

The 49ers are gambling Alexander will make a full recovery from the torn ACL that prematurely ended his 2018 season in Tampa Bay. He has averaged 8.3 tackles in 46 career NFL starts.

8. BENARDRICK MCKINNEY, HOUSTON

The five-year, \$50 million contract extension that the Texans signed him to during the 2018 offseason looks like money well spent. Along with a career-high seven pass break-ups last year, McKinney became the first Texans player with at least 100 tackles, one interception and one sack in a single season since fellow linebacker Brian Cushing in 2011.

9. ALEC OGLETREE, N.Y. GIANTS

The former 2013 first-round draft pick fixed the Giants' long-standing deficiency at linebacker following his 2018 offseason acquisition from the L.A. Rams. Ogletree led all NFL linebackers with five interceptions and finished second on the Giants in tackles (93) despite missing three games with injuries.

10. CORY LITTLETON, L.A. RAMS

One of the NFL's best special teams players transferred that talent to a stout Los Angeles defense during his first full season as a starter. The former undrafted free agent out of Washington broke up more passes (16) than any other linebacker in 2018 to go along with his team-leading 125 tackles.



ALEC OGLETREE

11. **Roquan Smith**
Chicago
12. **Kyle Van Noy**
New England
13. **Avery Williamson**
N.Y. Jets
14. **Todd Davis**
Denver
15. **Wesley Woodyard**
Tennessee
16. **Tremaine Edmunds**
Buffalo
17. **Myles Jack**
Jacksonville
18. **Zach Cunningham**
Houston
19. **Jarrad Davis**
Detroit
20. **Anthony Walker**
Indianapolis



1. STEPHON GILMORE, NEW ENGLAND

It took a year, but a rare big-money foray into free agency by the Patriots paid huge dividends in 2018. Forced the NFL's second-highest total of pass break-ups (20) while allowing opposing QBs to complete just 42 percent of their attempts with a 56.3 passer rating.



2. KYLE FULLER, CHICAGO

Chicago's decision to match Green Bay's four-year, \$56 million offer sheet during the 2018 offseason was wise. Fuller tied for the league lead in interceptions and is now tied for the most passes defended (43) in the league over the past two seasons.

3. PATRICK PETERSON, ARIZONA

Peterson's 2018 season was considered a down year, but that was primarily the result of his being miscast in a zone scheme. Expect a rebound with the Cardinals shifting back to press coverage under new defensive coordinator Vance Joseph.

4. JALEN RAMSEY, JACKSONVILLE

In terms of forcing turnovers, Ramsey failed to back up the trash talk he spewed toward opposing quarterbacks when coming off a breakthrough 2017 campaign. Even so, he was the only Jaguars player elected to the original 2018 Pro Bowl team.

5. DENZEL WARD, CLEVELAND

The first cornerback taken in the top four picks of the NFL Draft since 1998 started off his career by immediately making a Charles Woodson-type impact when he intercepted two passes in the Week 1 opener. Needs to improve his tackling form to avoid the scary neck and concussion injuries that sent him to the sidelines as a rookie.

6. CHRIS HARRIS JR., DENVER

Harris is a brilliant all-around cornerback who will be playing outside in 2019 with the Broncos having signed slot ace Bryce

Callahan from Chicago in free agency. Harris is the NFL's only player with multiple interceptions in every season since 2012.

7. MARSHON LATTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS

A tour-de-force performance in the Saints' playoff win over Philadelphia exemplified the kind of presence that Lattimore became in only his second NFL season. He notched two INTs, one to trigger a New Orleans comeback and the other late in the fourth quarter to seal the 20-14 victory over the defending champs.

8. DARIUS SLAY, DETROIT

"Big Play" Slay is putting up impressive numbers for a franchise that has sent five DBs to the Hall of Fame — Jack Christiansen, Dick LeBeau, Dick "Night Train" Lane, Lem Barney and Yale Lary. Slay's 43 pass break-ups over the past two seasons are tied for the most in the NFL.

9. XAVIEN HOWARD, MIAMI

Howard tied for the league lead in interceptions (seven) despite missing the final four games of the season with a knee injury. He has snared 11 interceptions in his past 17 starts, putting him in great position for a monster contract with his rookie deal set to expire after the 2019 season.

10. DESMOND KING, L.A. CHARGERS

Fantastic at limiting yards-after-catch while smothering wide receivers in the slot. Plus, he's one of the NFL's top returners.

11. **Byron Jones**
Dallas
12. **Aqib Talib**
L.A. Rams
13. **Jason McCourty**
New England
14. **A.J. Bouye**
Jacksonville
15. **Casey Hayward Jr.**
L.A. Chargers
16. **Bryce Callahan**
Denver
17. **Tre'Davious White**
Buffalo
18. **Desmond Trufant**
Atlanta
19. **Marcus Peters**
L.A. Rams
20. **Donte Jackson**
Carolina
21. **Richard Sherman**
San Francisco
22. **Pierre Desir**
Indianapolis
23. **Trumaine Johnson**
N.Y. Jets
24. **James Bradberry**
Carolina
25. **Janoris Jenkins**
N.Y. Giants
26. **Josh Norman**
Washington
27. **Ronald Darby**
Philadelphia
28. **Johnathan Joseph**
Houston
29. **Justin Coleman**
Detroit
30. **Marlon Humphrey**
Baltimore

S

1. EDDIE JACKSON, CHICAGO

Copious video study that included regular nighttime film sessions at team headquarters heavily contributed to his elite-level play in 2018. That included six INTs, three turnovers returned for touchdowns, 15 pass break-ups and 51 tackles in 14 games.



2. JAMAL ADAMS, N.Y. JETS

One of the few bright spots in an otherwise dismal Jets season. Versatility showcased by Pro Football Focus factoid pointing out he led all NFL safeties in total defensive stops (44) and quarterback pressures (22).

3. DERWIN JAMES, L.A. CHARGERS

Took the NFL by storm en route to becoming the NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year runner-up. He's the first rookie in franchise history to record 100-plus tackles while also logging 3.5 sacks and three interceptions.

4. DEVIN MCCOURTY, NEW ENGLAND

The secondary injuries that led to McCourty being shifted from cornerback to safety in 2012 couldn't have proven more fortuitous considering how he has excelled at the position. He's now tied, along with fellow Pats safety Patrick Chung and four others, for most all-time Super Bowl starts (five) behind Tom Brady (nine).

5. EARL THOMAS, BALTIMORE

Despite missing 19 games the past three seasons, the Ravens believe the 30-year-old Thomas can regain the form that had him on a Hall of Fame track. At the cost of \$32 million guaranteed as part of a four-year, \$55 million contract, Baltimore needs a Legion of Boom-caliber showing to avoid being remembered for a free agent bust of a signing.

6. HARRISON SMITH, MINNESOTA

Didn't make as many splash plays last season as in 2017 with decreases in interceptions (from five to three) and pass break-ups (12 to six). He was still voted All-Pro for a second straight season as a roaming safety equally adept in tackling and coverage.

7. LONDON COLLINS, WASHINGTON

As evidenced by a record-setting six-year, \$84 million contract, the Redskins didn't have the same trepidation about signing Collins to a monster deal as did the Giants (his former team). The expectation is that Greg Manusky's defensive scheme can get Collins back to his playmaking ways of 2016 and 2017.



DERWIN JAMES

8. TYRANN MATHIEU, KANSAS CITY

The Chiefs tendered a three-year, \$42 million pact that gives Kansas City the multidimensional safety needed to fill the void created by Eric Berry's unavailability the past two seasons.

9. KEVIN BYARD, TENNESSEE

Deion Sanders knows his name now after another quality season. He has more interceptions (12) than any other NFL player since the start of the 2017 season.

10. MALCOLM JENKINS, PHILADELPHIA

The NFL's snap leader among safeties in 2018 (1,174) had another strong season despite the injuries that struck the Eagles' secondary. He recorded 97 tackles in 2018, the second-highest total of his 10-year career.

11. **Keanu Neal**
Atlanta
12. **Jordan Poyer**
Buffalo
13. **John Johnson III**
L.A. Rams
14. **Eric Weddle**
L.A. Rams
15. **Damarious Randall**
Cleveland
16. **LaMarcus Joyner**
Oakland
17. **Jabrill Peppers**
N.Y. Giants
18. **Adrian Amos**
Green Bay
19. **Patrick Chung**
New England
20. **Eric Reid**
Carolina
21. **Ha Ha Clinton-Dix**
Chicago
22. **Kareem Jackson**
Denver
23. **Micah Hyde**
Buffalo
24. **Reshad Jones**
Miami
25. **Shawn Williams**
Cincinnati
26. **Jessie Bates**
Cincinnati
27. **Sean Davis**
Pittsburgh
28. **Justin Simmons**
Denver
29. **Antoine Bethea**
N.Y. Giants
30. **Quandre Diggs**
Detroit

COACHING CAROUSEL

ARIZONA CARDINALS

OLD: Steve Wilks

NEW: KLIFF KINGSBURY

PREVIOUS JOB: Head Coach, Texas Tech

PROS: Even after a 35-40 record got him fired from his alma mater, Kingsbury managed to create something of a bidding war on the open market thanks to his offenses in Lubbock, which ranked in college football's top half in each of his six seasons and peaked with a No. 2 national ranking in 2015. By most accounts, Patrick Mahomes II's college mentor is off to a flying start in the desert, and there's no denying that he gives off something of a Sean McVay vibe (which no doubt played a part in the hire).

CONS: Let's face it: There's nothing on his résumé that says he will succeed in Arizona. Kingsbury failed at a job that was seemingly tailor-made for him, and he has no NFL coaching experience whatsoever.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Seemingly overnight, Kingsbury pivoted from failed Texas Tech pretty boy to the most coveted coaching prospect on the market. That's what possessing an offensive-oriented mind in an offensive era can do for you. Kingsbury will have a long leash in an obvious rebuilding situation, but he'll need to show immediate results with hand-picked quarterback Kyler Murray to engender confidence.



CINCINNATI BENGALS

OLD: Marvin Lewis

NEW: ZAC TAYLOR

PREVIOUS JOB: Quarterbacks Coach, Los Angeles Rams

PROS: In something of a recurring theme in this year's coaching carousel, the Bengals looked westward toward Sean McVay-ville for their new head man after finally turning the page on the lengthy Marvin Lewis era. Taylor coaxed an elite season out of Jared Goff (4,688 yards, 32 TD passes) as his position coach, and he possesses the youthful energy and offensive mind that seem to be the prize attributes for this new generation of coaches. Like Kingsbury, Taylor was an accomplished college quarterback, leading Nebraska to a 17-9 record as a starter, and he has a track record as a QB whisperer, helping Ryan Tannehill to two 4,000-yard seasons in 2014-15 as his position coach.

CONS: Like others on the McVay coaching tree, Taylor lacks experience. He's only 35, and this is his first head coaching job at any level. His staff reflects its boss' inexperience — both of his coordinators (Brian Callahan and Lou Anarumo) are essentially first-timers, although Anarumo had a stint as interim DC in Miami.

FINAL ANALYSIS: A franchise with little to lose is rolling the dice on a McVay clone. Unfortunately, there's no Todd Gurley or Aaron Donald in Cincy. A lot will depend on how Andy Dalton responds to a fresh voice.



CLEVELAND BROWNS

OLD: Gregg Williams (interim)

NEW: FREDDIE KITCHENS

PREVIOUS JOB: Offensive Coordinator, Cleveland Browns

PROS: Kitchens steps into perhaps the most desirable situation of any new coach this year — but he's not exactly new, having led the Browns offense as coordinator following the firing of head coach Hue Jackson and offensive coordinator Todd Haley at midseason. During that eight-game stretch, the Browns went 5-3, and rookie quarterback Baker Mayfield thrived in Kitchens' offense, throwing 19 touchdown passes and posting a QB rating above 121 in four different games. Kitchens' down-home demeanor is a breath of fresh air for the blue-collar Dawg Pound denizens who are starved for something different.

CONS: He's never been a head coach at any level, and those eight games last season represent the extent of Kitchens' coordinator experience. Can he handle being the leader of a franchise, especially one that has become synonymous with futility?

FINAL ANALYSIS: Cleveland is perhaps the most intriguing team in the NFL this season, in part because of the wild card wearing the headset. But the pieces are seemingly in place for Kitchens to enjoy some immediate success.

DENVER BRONCOS

OLD: Vance Joseph

NEW: VIC FANGIO

PREVIOUS JOB: Defensive Coordinator, Chicago Bears

PROS: This 32-year veteran of the NFL coaching ranks finally gets his shot to run a team after 19 seasons as a defensive coordinator for five different franchises. And he has coordinated some excellent defenses; after he was retained through a coaching change, his 2018 Bears defense was among the best in the NFL, ranking third in total defense, first in yards per play and first in scoring defense, as well as leading the NFL in turnovers and interceptions. Sharing a division with the Chiefs and Chargers made hiring a defensive-minded coach a necessity, and Fangio fits the profile.

CONS: Many of this franchise's problems lie on the other side of the ball — specifically, the quarterback position, where the Broncos have gone begging since Peyton Manning's retirement. Denver drafted Drew Lock and must develop him while Joe Flacco keeps the seat warm. Is Fangio up to that task?

FINAL ANALYSIS: John Elway whiffed with his previous coaching hire, putting his stewardship of his beloved Broncos under some pretty intense scrutiny. Fangio would be doing his new boss a solid if he could turn things around quickly.



GREEN BAY PACKERS

OLD: Mike McCarthy

NEW: **MATT LAFLEUR**

PREVIOUS JOB: Offensive Coordinator, Tennessee Titans

PROS: The Packers are plucking a branch from the Sean McVay coaching tree in hopes of replicating the Rams' success, and there are reasons for optimism. LaFleur, 39, was Matt Ryan's position coach in Atlanta during Ryan's MVP season, and he spent a successful season on McVay's staff in Los Angeles as offensive coordinator for a unit that led the NFL in scoring. He'll have better raw materials to work with in Green Bay than he had in Tennessee; calling Aaron Rodgers an upgrade over Marcus Mariota is something of an understatement.

CONS: LaFleur's departure didn't exactly break a lot of hearts in Nashville, where he oversaw the NFL's 27th-ranked scoring offense and failed in the franchise's ongoing attempt to elicit elite play out of Mariota. LaFleur occasionally negated head coach Mike Vrabel's aggressiveness with questionable play calls in key situations.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Things had grown stale in Green Bay under McCarthy, and LaFleur should provide a jolt of youthful enthusiasm. Packers brass has called on Rodgers to "embrace change," and Rodgers' willingness to do so could be the critical litmus test for the new regime.



NEW YORK JETS

OLD: Todd Bowles

NEW: **ADAM GASE**

PREVIOUS JOB: Head Coach, Miami Dolphins

PROS: Gase did an underrated job as the head coach in Miami, leading the Dolphins to their first playoff appearance in eight years in his first season (2016). That season also saw quarterback Ryan Tannehill post the highest passer rating (93.5) of his career.

CONS: Gase failed to make a positive impression on the merciless New York media at his wide-eyed introductory press conference, and fans will be quick to turn on him should the Jets start slowly — as is their history, with a combined 3-7 September record over the last three seasons. Gase's team bailed on him late in his Miami tenure, hardly a positive sign as he takes over a fragile franchise desperate to become relevant.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Having a young, talented quarterback in Sam Darnold to build around means that Gase has a leg up on some of his fellow newbies, but there are glaring holes elsewhere on the roster, and a fan base that has seen its impatience drift into indifference will find its loyalties tested yet again.



MIAMI DOLPHINS

OLD: Adam Gase

NEW: **BRIAN FLORES**

PREVIOUS JOB: Linebackers Coach, New England Patriots

PROS: Flores has spent his entire coaching career on Bill Belichick's staff in New England, and there are worse places to spend an apprenticeship. During his tenure, which began in 2004 as a scouting assistant, the Patriots made seven Super Bowl appearances, winning four. Flores spent this past season as New England's linebackers coach and de facto defensive coordinator, calling plays for another Super Bowl-winning defense.

CONS: Coaching at Belichick's side is no guarantee of future success; just ask Matt Patricia, whose transition from Patriots D-coordinator to Lions head coach was far from seamless. Flores' sole season as coordinator (without the title) produced a solid but not overwhelming defensive performance — the Patriots ranked 21st in total defense and 22nd against the pass — and Flores' most important task in Miami will lie on the other side of the ball, as he inherits an offense that has struggled.

FINAL ANALYSIS: This is a franchise in transition, as the Dolphins have turned the page on the Ryan Tannehill era at quarterback and likely will hand the reins to Josh Rosen. Unlike Patricia, Flores will get two shots per season at his former boss, and that inside knowledge could come in handy, but that's all moot if the Dolphins can't develop Rosen into a franchise QB.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

OLD: Dirk Koetter

NEW: **BRUCE ARIANS**

PREVIOUS JOB: Analyst for CBS Sports

PROS: Arians is easily the most established name in this crop of new coaches, having led the Cardinals to a 49-30-1 record and an NFC Championship Game appearance and twice earning AP NFL Coach of the Year honors during his five seasons in Arizona. If anyone can change the culture in Tampa and coax winning football out of quarterback Jameis Winston, it's Arians, who has a personal history with his new QB going back to Winston's attendance at an Arians camp as a ninth-grader.

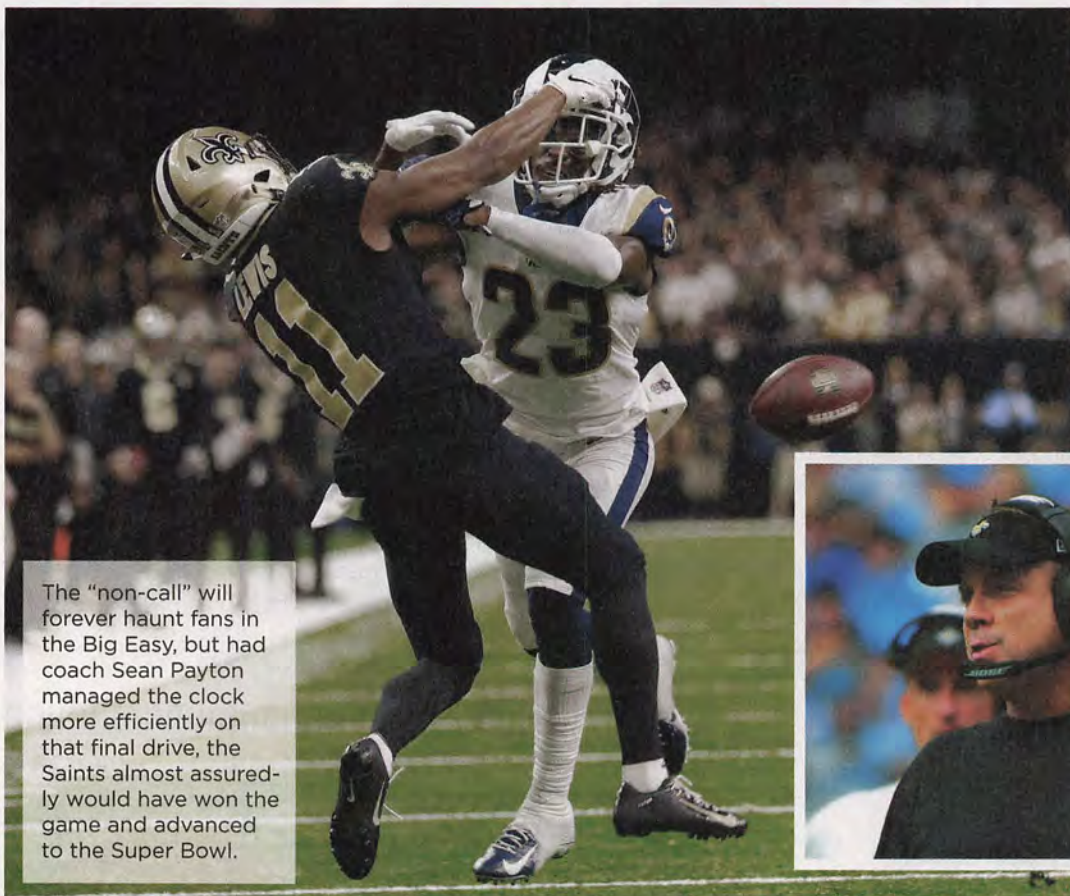
CONS: After leading Arizona to 35 wins in his first three seasons in the desert, Arians seemingly ran out of gas, stumbling to a 15-16-1 mark in his last two seasons before announcing his retirement. He's 66 and a prostate cancer survivor; at this point in his life, does he have the energy and desire to tackle a serious rebuild?

FINAL ANALYSIS: Arians and the Bucs are bucking the league-wide youth movement, and we'll soon find out if an experienced hand can energize a franchise that's mired in an 11-year playoff drought.



BEAT

THE



The “non-call” will forever haunt fans in the Big Easy, but had coach Sean Payton managed the clock more efficiently on that final drive, the Saints almost assuredly would have won the game and advanced to the Super Bowl.



SEAN PAYTON

CLOCK

Something as seemingly simple as clock management can frustrate fans and confound NFL coaches By Michael Bradley

Dan Pitcher may have spent every Sunday during his three seasons as an assistant with Cincinnati sitting in a booth high above the field, focusing on Bengals receivers or quarterbacks (depending on his job title at the time), but he understands that when time gets tight, circumstances on the sidelines get crazy and decisions must be made in a split second, there is really no ready-made solution to a particular problem.

The number of variables that swirl around a late-game situation — or even in the closing minutes of a half — is astounding. Coaches must deal with down-and-distance, timeouts remaining, field position and time left on the clock, and that doesn't even begin to cover intangibles like which players are performing well in the moment or how various sectors of a game plan have worked to that point. Trying to find calm and reason amidst sideline chaos is extremely difficult.

It all seems so easy from the couch or stadium seat, doesn't it? Call the timeout, you idiot! Don't run the ball! We all know exactly what to do. And we just might. But the difference is that fans and media have no accountability for a blown call or a poor decision. And the guys on the other sideline have something to say about what's going to happen, too. Make the wrong decision at a key point late in the game or first half, and it can be the difference between a playoff berth and going home in January. Mess things up in the postseason, and the mistake is amplified. It's just not as simple as many think it is. Pitcher knows that.

“To think that in the heat of battle with the play clock going that you can just refer to the manual for an answer is not realistic,” Pitcher says. “You can prepare and have scenarios in your mind, but you still have to react to situations.”

“The goal is to develop some guidelines that give us the best opportunity to succeed.”

This season, Pitcher will do more than work with QBs. New Bengals coach Zac Taylor has added another duty to his job description: clock management assistant. It's not an official title, and no one will find it on his business card or in his official Bengals bio. But at a time when information is exploding throughout the NFL, and teams are paying more attention than ever to how they manage every part of the game — especially in the crucial late stages of the halves — it makes sense that Taylor would look for someone to help.

The Bengals aren't alone. Carolina has designated defensive line coach Sam Mills III as its "game management coach." Washington has named former offensive coordinator Matt Cavanaugh a senior offensive assistant, with one of his responsibilities to help improve the team's clock management and its two-minute drill operations. In January, Atlanta elevated Kyle Flood, who served as the team's assistant offensive line coach last year, to senior assistant, with responsibilities that include managing the team's clock operations and two-minute drills, along with providing input on replay challenges. (However, less than two weeks later, Flood left the Falcons to become O-line coach under Nick Saban at Alabama.)

Even if a franchise isn't hiring (or reassigning) a coach to handle the most chaotic parts of the game, everyone is looking for ways to be more effective.

"Clock management is critical," Raiders GM Mike Mayock says. "Some coaches are good at it, and some aren't. There are different philosophies out there about whether or not you hire a coach to manage it."

This is a critical part of the NFL world. Just last season, 73 games were decided by three or fewer points, a league record. That's 4.3 per week. In addition, 125 (49 percent) of the games ended in margins of seven or fewer points, the fourth most in league history. Finally, 68 percent of games last season were within one score (eight points) at some point in the fourth quarter, which tied for third most in history. With so many tight games, teams must be sharp in the waning moments, or they will be sliced by the razor-thin margin of victory.

Pitcher ended up with the position in Cincinnati because he had played an informal role in helping make good decisions regarding the clock during his first few years in the league — although his former boss, Marvin Lewis, was criticized over the past several seasons for questionable choices at the ends of halves and games. During games, Pitcher would be in contact with the Bengals' offensive coordinator, but there was nothing clearly established about what he would be doing for the team, and the protocols were not nearly as established as the Bengals hope they will be moving forward. Because Taylor is putting more emphasis on the area, he approached Pitcher and discussed the possibility of a more concrete approach.

"It will encompass a lot of different things, including practice preparation and game-day situational management," Pitcher says. "[Taylor] envisions the role as identifying likely scenarios we will come across during the season at the ends of halves and when we might challenge calls and want to have input on things we should be aware of."

"That way, when something happens, we will have done everything we can to that point to be ready."

Even though Mayock admits that Oakland head coach Jon Gruden "knows way more" about clock management than he does, Gruden understands that there is no exact science to the practice.

"It's never perfect," Gruden says. "It helps to have another guy who is independently monitoring things and helping you. It's something worth looking at more deeply. Analytics, clock management, rules interpretation, technology: We're going to look at all of it."

Although coaches have been trying for decades to find ways to squeeze as many seconds out of each game as possible, there hasn't been too much study and emphasis put on ways to master the situations that arise during those waning moments, when a poorly timed run call or slow trigger on a timeout decision could blow a chance at victory. The godfather of clock management is Homer Smith, who coached in the college ranks for 36 years and spent one season on the sidelines



ZAC TAYLOR



It will encompass a lot of different things, including practice preparation and game-day situational management. [Zac Taylor] envisions the role as identifying likely scenarios we will come across during the season at the ends of halves and when we might challenge calls and want to have input on things we should be aware of."

— Dan Pitcher, who holds the unofficial title of "game management coach" for new Bengals head coach Zac Taylor

with the Chiefs. For several autumns, Smith and his devoted wife, Kathy, watched and taped multiple games in search of clues and strategies about managing and mastering the clock. In 2004, Smith published (with Steve Axman) *The Complete Handbook of Clock Management*, which still maintains a presence in NFL offices. It may have been supplanted by computer-generated data, but its basic tenets continue to carry heft throughout the league.

The book opens with a general statement about how important it is for players to accept responsibility for their actions during and in preparation for a game. It applies a similar maxim to coaches' ability to make the right choices at the end of halves.

"The managing of the clock is at its best when coaches accept responsibility for the managing. When one coach blames one player for one problem, the managing is not at its best."

The book checks in at a lean 174 pages, containing little fluff, and it recognizes that trying to find even a few seconds to squeeze an extra play in before a field goal attempt or last-second pass into the end zone can be extremely difficult. Smith asserts that coaches must develop protocols designed to maximize their

BEAT THE CLOCK

opportunities as time slips away, and as the Greek chorus of fans and media shouts suggestions, criticism and vitriol.

In a 2016 *Sports*

Illustrated article about clock management, Joe DeCamillis, who was then a Broncos assistant who provided input to the team's clock management decisions and who is now special teams coordinator for the Jaguars, likened the job of making sure things run well late in games to that of an air traffic controller. "You've got a thousand things going on. You're watching 20 planes," he said. In his book, Smith took the flight metaphor even further, comparing late-game clock management to a fighter pilot in a Mayday situation. "In neither can you make a major mistake and survive," he wrote.

When the Rams and Saints played in last season's NFC title game, the main thing onlookers were seeing was the lack of a flag on the ground with 1:45 remaining in a 20-20 game when Los Angeles cornerback Nickell Robey-Coleman blasted New Orleans receiver Tommy Lee Lewis early as Drew Brees targeted the third-year pro with a pass up the sideline deep in L.A. territory.

Fans howled. Saints coach Sean Payton looked even more aggrieved than usual and said afterward that the league told him that not only was the interference call missed, but there was also an egregious whiff on the helmet-to-helmet hit. Even Robey-Coleman admitted he arrived too early. "Came to the sideline, looked at the football gods and was like, 'Thank you,'" Robey-Coleman said. "I got away with one tonight." Of course, it was easy for him to be magnanimous, since he and his teammates were heading to the Super Bowl, thanks to a 57-yard Greg Zuerlein field goal in overtime that produced a 26-23 victory.

But those who were able to look beyond the amateurish approach to officiating noted that had Payton managed the clock more efficiently, the blown call would have been a footnote to a Saints triumph.

The trouble started with 1:53 remaining and New Orleans facing a first-and-10 on the L.A. 13. The Rams had two timeouts remaining, but instead of running the ball three times, forcing L.A. to burn both its timeouts and likely hitting a chip-shot field goal with about a minute remaining — if not a broken tackle or two to produce a first down or even six points — the Saints took another tack.

Instead of draining the clock, New Orleans passed twice — both of the tosses fell incomplete, including the botched interference non-call — making the Rams stop the clock just once and giving L.A. the ball back with 1:41 left and a timeout. That allowed quarterback Jared Goff to drive the Rams into position for a Zuerlein 48-yarder that tied the game with 0:15 to play. Brees threw an interception during the first possession of overtime that led to the winning kick. NFL Films microphones caught Payton telling Brees on the sideline, "Look, I want to score [a touchdown] here." Payton's desire to score a TD also led to significant criticism and could well have cost New Orleans a Super Bowl shot.

Payton certainly isn't the only coach who has struggled with clock management issues during big games. Last year, Denver fans were irate at coach Vance Joseph, who struggled throughout the season with clock management gaffes. Perhaps his biggest came Nov. 4 at home against Houston. Trailing 19-17 facing a first-and-10 on the Texans 37-yard line, with 0:43 to play and

WASTING TIME

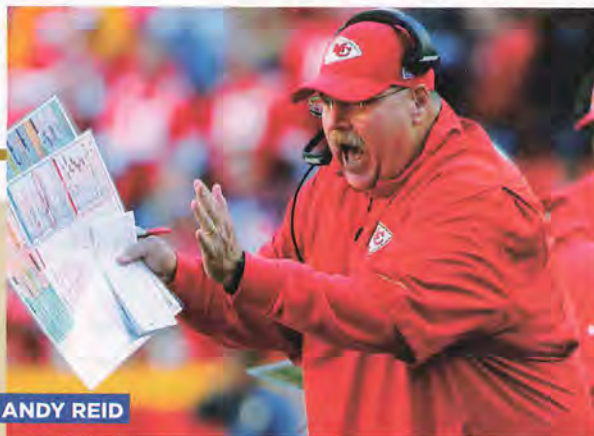
Last year's Rams-Saints NFC title game was the most recent example of shaky clock management by a coach, but league history has been filled with gaffes that have cost teams games.

Kansas City's Andy Reid will almost certainly pass 200 career wins this season, but there are those who believe his mistakes at key times have cost his team important games. The Eagles' Super Bowl XXXIX woes are the most egregious, but during the 2015 playoffs, Reid once again struggled. KC was trailing the Patriots, 27-13, when it gained possession with 6:29 remaining in the game. Rather than play with urgency, the Chiefs crept up the field, mounting a 16-play drive that took more than five minutes off the clock. They finally scored, but when New England recovered the ensuing onside kick and registered a first down, the game was over, and Reid took heat again for wasting time.

In 2017, HeadCoachRanking.com rated all 32 NFL bosses on their clock management abilities, and then-Cleveland coach Hue Jackson was rated worst of all. During a late-November game against the Bengals, he let the clock run out in the first half while still holding a timeout in his pocket and Cleveland driving.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin has had his share of clock management gaffes. In September 2015, he admitted that he bungled the end of the game. New York had the ball with a third-and-goal from the one, 1:43 left and a 23-20 lead over Dallas. The Cowboys had no timeouts remaining, so even if the Giants ran the ball and failed, they still would have been able to convert an easy field goal try and take 30 or more seconds off the clock. Instead, Coughlin called for a pass, which fell incomplete. After the field goal made it 26-20, Dallas had 1:34 with which to work and drove the field for a winning TD. "[It was] bad clock management for that whole deal," Coughlin said after the game.

It was, but he certainly isn't alone in that department.



ANDY REID

TWO POINTS OF VIEW

On the surface, it appears as if NFL coaches are becoming more swashbuckling than ever. They are going for it on fourth down more often and trying a large number of two-point conversions. It makes sense that the league is expanding to Las Vegas next season, because head coaches are gambling like never before.

But is that behavior all that risky? The numbers say no. Because the NFL made the PAT kick longer in 2015, the success rate has gone down. That means more teams are trying to score two points. Last year, the expected points per PAT were .95, thanks to the 95 percent success rate. The expected points per two-point conversion were 1.2.

That doesn't mean that every two-point decision is going to work, but on average, teams will score more points throughout a season if they try for two points. In 2018, the Browns and Chargers tried the most two-point conversions, 0.6 per game. That may not seem like a lot of attempts, but it is higher than has been the average. For instance, in 2017, only one team, the Eagles, attempted 0.6 per game, and only one, the Bucs, tried 0.4 per game. Last year, six attempted 0.4.

Sure, some coaches want to risk it all at the end of a game by going for two, rather than heading into overtime after a successful (one hopes) PAT. But coaches are willing to play the percentages. For instance, teams converted 55.7 percent of their fourth down tries last year, a number that leads coaches to believe it is more of a sound strategy than just a risk.

It may seem like coaches are taking more chances, but in reality, they are making smart choices.

a timeout remaining, the Broncos completed a five-yard pass but let 30 seconds elapse before trying a running play that gained nothing. Instead of trying to get kicker Brandon McManus closer for a game winner, Joseph had wasted time and called a curious play that resulted in a missed 51-yarder and a loss.

Every week, coaches' time management skills — or lack thereof — are on display throughout the league. It is by no means a science, although teams are trying to make it one. "More and more teams are studying it," Oakland's Mayock says. "With all the different analytics out there, it's easier to present arguments about why teams did it this way or that. Teams want to go into games with set philosophies and not just react with a gut feeling."

It is unlikely you will see Cincinnati's Taylor standing on the sideline with a print-out of every possible situation that could arise at the end of games or halves and corresponding high-percentage choices to be made. That's just not how all of this works. Trying to come up with an outcome to every scenario is foolish and would take much of the human element from the game. Instead of a definitive, "if this, then that" approach, Pitcher sees a more nuanced strategy built around preparation and consistent communication in the days and weeks leading up to kickoff.

"It's important for our guys to be aware when the first time something happens, we have done everything we can to that point during OTAs, training camp and during the season on a weekly basis to prepare," Pitcher says.

Taylor's primary goal to prepare for those moments is an ongoing dialogue that begins with examining data, reviewing tape and circumstances that have arisen around the league and then coming up with a set of protocols ahead of time "made with a level head" that will allow for calm decision-making when things get crazy on game days. By examining various possibilities in advance, an organizational approach or philosophy can emerge that guides Taylor as the clock is moving toward zero, rather than presenting him with a set of absolutes that may not be perfect matches for every situation. This will allow for a more reasoned approach at a time when so much is swirling around.

"I think it's a great idea having someone taking the 30,000-foot view," Pitcher says. "I can examine what are the various scenarios and what could come up."

Different teams handle the development of their clock management strategies in varying ways. Most will have someone present information and possibilities to the larger group, with discussions ensuing from there about what the overriding approach will be. It's more important to understand the parameters under which teams will operate during these times than to have a chart of outcomes. Once the brain trust formulates its plan, it's on to the rank-and-file — the players.

There is no uniform way to handle end-of-game drills. Some teams stage them early in practice sessions, the better to get players' attention and to set a tone of immediacy for the day's work. Others create situations later in practice or wait until the end. The most important thing is making sure the team understands its leadership's approach to the matter, so that when decisions are made during crucial moments, no one is surprised, and execution — rather than curiosity — becomes paramount.

"You want to have a certain philosophy that goes to the root of what you want to do," Pitcher says. "That will guide your study and preparation, so that when the game comes, your system is in place, and your communication is good enough so that you can think on your feet."

The good thing is that there is copious information available, not to mention the sins of previous coaches to show what not to do. As teams gather more and more data on everything from the proper ingredients to put into players' protein shakes to when it makes sense to go for it on fourth down, they have opportunities to create their procedures based on advanced statistics and a century's worth of prior outcomes. In the end, though, there is no perfect formula.

"It becomes ingrained in your process," Pitcher says. "There are all sorts of models out there about when do you go for two, when do you try an onside kick. In a vacuum, looking over a million games, you can say that 'this decision' works 53 percent of the time. We should know that in a game and take it into account. But you have to look at how you are playing, and whether that overrides a percentage."

"You have a call, and you have the numbers, but you also have experience. This is the moment. This is what's important right now."

So, what are you going to do?

The clock is running.



Mike Mayock is applying what he learned as a broadcaster in his new role as GM of the Oakland Raiders By Michael Bradley

There are those who believe the Oakland Raiders took a colossal jump into the abyss by hiring a TV guy to be their general manager, and they could be correct. When Jon Gruden announced that Mike Mayock would be taking the Silver and Black's front office reins, he wasn't exactly following the traditional playbook. For a guy so beholden to offensive staples like his beloved Spider 2 Y Banana, Gruden looked like someone committed to a wild, new frontier that was completely incongruent in the copycat NFL.

As you might imagine, Mayock doesn't see things that way. And he shouldn't.

Despite what many people say, he's not a "TV guy." He's a football guy and has been since he would climb out of bed as a youngster to watch game film with his father, a high school coach. He graduated to scouting teams with Mike Sr., calling out down and distance, play formation, play run and the result to his dad and then learning whether he was correct. (He usually was.) It was a natural progression from there to high school stardom at The

Haverford School in suburban Philadelphia, All-East honors at Boston College and two seasons with the New York Giants.

He may have spent nearly three decades behind a microphone and in front of a camera for a variety of media outlets, most recently NFL Network, but this is no teleprompter-reading network skill. Mayock is a classic hustler who began his media career providing sideline reporting for high school games on the radio, once "interviewed" the Navy goat on live TV and has taken his love of the game and legendary work ethic to the upper reaches of the nation's foremost professional sports league. Mayock isn't a recycled exec or a lieutenant getting his shot after serving as aide-de-camp to an established winner. He's someone for whom eight hours watching tape are bliss and in whom Gruden found someone with the same high level of passion for the rigors of scouting and identifying talent.

"I like guys who do a lot of work," says Gruden, who met Mayock when he served as offensive coordinator in the mid-'90s

for the Eagles. "I like the guys who actually look at the tape and don't look at the Internet to find what other people think. I want them to do the work and really evaluate players."

Mayock built that reputation as NFL Network's draft analyst. He was renowned for attending practically every pro day and looking at tape like a league executive. After proving himself to NFL scouts, GMs and personnel directors, Mayock became as much a resource for them as they were for him. As each year's draft neared, Mayock would spend hours on the phone with New England's Bill Belichick — an assistant coach when Mayock was with the Giants — comparing their evaluations and arguing about various players.

In 2012, Belichick said, "He sees the players; he's not just going on reputation or somebody else's opinion. He watches tapes. He can recall players and games, and refers to specific things to back up his opinion. He looks at the game in a way I'm familiar with: He places emphasis on production."

Mayock has brought all of that to Oak-

land, at a crucial time for the franchise. The Raiders have had just one winning season in the last 16, played in one post-season game (a 2016 loss to Houston) and have burned through coaches and GMs like few other NFL teams. Gruden took over before last season and went 4-12, the eighth time during that 16-year stretch Oakland has managed four or fewer wins. He made big headlines with his decisions to deal Khalil Mack and Amari Cooper and upset more than a few fans. The move to bring on Mayock, who had been courted several years ago by then-Raiders owner Al Davis, was just as controversial as the trades Gruden executed. A TV guy taking over as GM? Looks like the Raiders are at it again.

Charles Davis doesn't look at it that way. The NFL Network analyst has known Mayock for nearly 15 years. He has seen his friend slowly gain traction, acceptance and eventually significant respect among NFL scouts and personnel people and isn't surprised at all by the move.

"The multiple scouts and personnel people I talked to all said the exact same thing," Davis says. "They felt like one of their own got the job. That speaks volumes."

...

When it comes to the circumstances surrounding Oakland's trading a third- and a fifth-round pick in the 2019 draft for Antonio Brown and then bestowing a contract on him that includes \$30.125 million in guaranteed money, Gruden is careful not to give Mayock too much credit. "I don't want him to think [team owner] Mark Davis didn't get the deal done by paying the most money ever for a wide receiver," Gruden says, laughing. "Mike didn't discover Antonio Brown. He's not paying him. I don't want to give him too much credit."

Then, Gruden turns serious. "Mike did a great job in the minutiae of the deal."

And there was plenty of it. Mayock and Gruden insisted that Oakland was not going to surrender a first-round pick in a deal for Brown, even though the Raiders had three in this draft. At one point, Mayock went to bed feeling there was no shot at the trade, but thanks to persistence by both the team and Brown's agent, Drew Rosenhaus, things finally came together.

When April's draft began, Oakland played a starring role, especially in the first round. And Mayock and Gruden

didn't mind being in the spotlight, no matter how hot it became. With the fourth overall pick, the Raiders selected Clemson defensive end Clelin Ferrell, who had been rated as a low first-round pick (and even a second-rounder) by most draft analysts. It was a classic Mayock move. Unable to get one of the clear top three players — Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, Ohio State defensive end Nick Bosa and Alabama defensive tackle Quinnen Williams — he took the player he felt best fit the team's need at rush end, regardless of spot in the draft, and certainly with little concern about what others thought. Ferrell was a high-character guy with a great work ethic and love for the game. So what if some thought Mayock and the Raiders had picked him too high? This was the man who withstood a torrent of criticism when he said the Raiders' decision to draft JaMarcus Russell first overall in 2007 was a mistake. He was proven right then and expects to be correct this time, too.

"It all goes back to, there were flashier players, players that other teams may have had higher on their boards," Mayock said. "On our board, it was he and [Nick] Bosa at that position. Right next to each other at that position. So we knew that he would probably be there, everyone else had the bigger names, but Jon and I went in there this morning and double-checked everything, and he was our guy. He checked all the boxes. He's going to be a three-down player, he's 264 pounds, he's a captain. When you talk to the guys at

Clemson, they all talk about this kid as being the cornerstone of that defense, so everything he does reminds me of what we want in the Raiders."

That's Mayock. He does his work. He sets his mind. He makes his choice, and he moves forward. But that decisiveness wasn't there when he was working to enter the broadcasting world. He split his time between TV and his successful commercial real estate career until his son, Michael III, pointed out that he had told a group of high school kids to follow their passions without reservation, and Mayock was still splitting his attention. That led to a single-minded approach to his new career that included roles with ESPN, CBS, NBC, Westwood One and NFL Network. In the process, he developed a reputation for intense preparation.

"Mike knows football at the NFL level," says Kevin Kugler, with whom Mayock worked on Westwood One NFL radio broadcasts. "It was obvious that he had watched copious amounts of tape — two or three games — and studied the individuals above and beyond most analysts."

"They studied tape. He studied individuals. And he was able to apply it."

Gruden says he and Mayock enjoy debating players' values, and even though they may raise their voices and get a little heated, at the end they usually come to a strong consensus.

"We'll argue, and then we'll look at each other and start laughing," Gruden says. "We don't have many disagreements on the draft, the salary cap and our vision for putting together a team."

For Mayock, those showdowns with Gruden are what keep him coming into the office at 6 a.m. and fuel his overwhelming enthusiasm for the game and for his new position. He looks forward to establishing a culture within the Oakland front office that emphasizes accountability and fills the halls with people who truly love what they do. The kid who used to watch tape with his father is now working to create a winning NFL team. To use a favorite Mayock phrase, "How great is that?"

"I had the greatest job in the world on television," Mayock says. "The NFL Network was awesome to me, and I loved it. But at the end of the day, I feel like I'm where I belong. I don't miss [TV] at all."

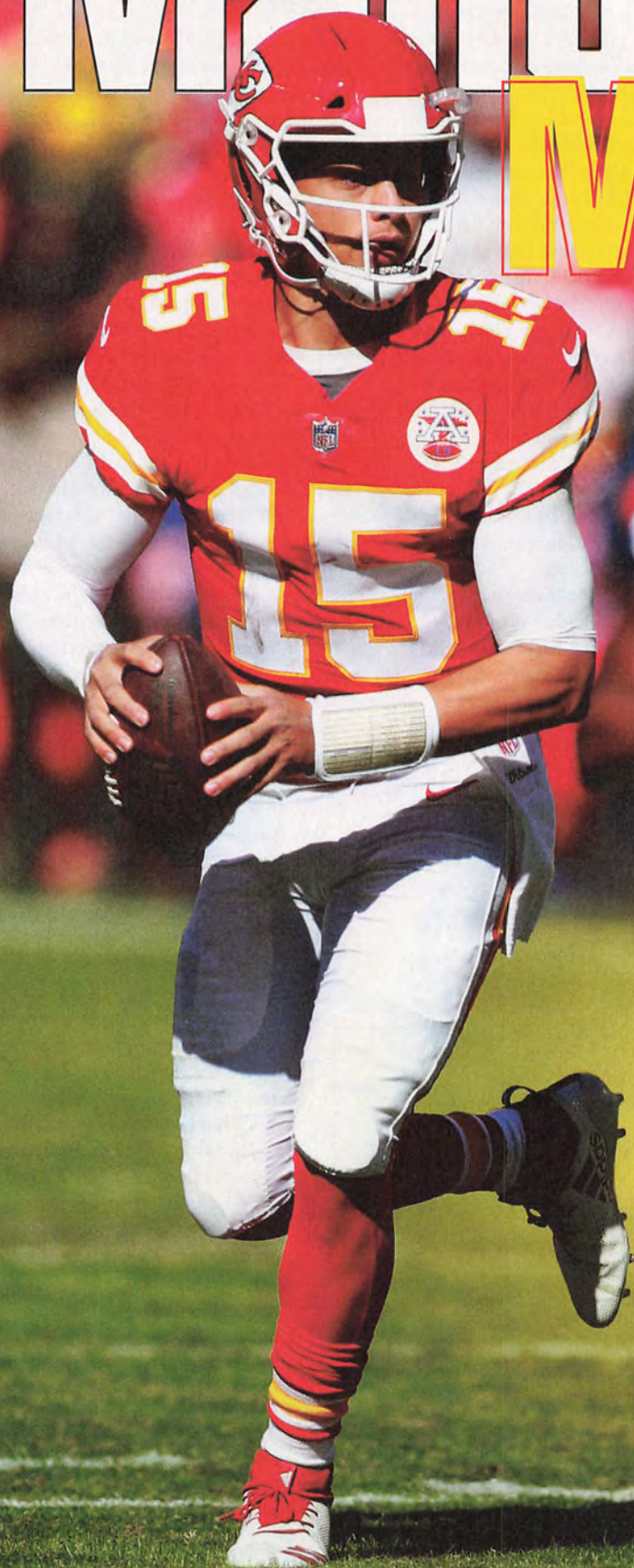
And he doesn't care if anyone thinks he should still be there.



"On our board, it was he and [Nick] Bosa at that position. Right next to each other at that position. ... He checked all the boxes."

- Mike Mayock on the Raiders' decision to draft Clelin Ferrell with the No. 4 pick in the 2019 draft

Mahomes MAGIC



Is Patrick Mahomes the new standard of greatness for NFL QBs?

By Rivers McCown

Monday Night Football in Week 4 of the 2018 season matched the Chiefs and the Broncos in Denver. It was the first nationally televised game of Patrick Mahomes' career as an NFL starter. Mahomes' box score statistics weren't outlandish: 28-of-45, 304 yards, one passing touchdown in a close win. But those statistics didn't fully reflect what actually happened on the field.

On third-and-11 with 11:34 left in the third quarter, his team down by three, Mahomes faced a scenario that would have resulted in fourth down for 99 percent of NFL quarterbacks. Initial pressure wasn't there on a four-man rush, but the first read was covered, and the pocket was collapsing. Mahomes stepped out to his left and into a situation where most quarterbacks would likely either slide and take a small gain or try to heroball their way past defenders. Instead, he threw across his body after the short zone coverage rolled with him. Travis Kelce, who had been closely defended when Mahomes had read his side of the field, had seen his zone defenders vacate the premises to close off the running threat. Mahomes side-armed a ball across his body right to Kelce for a 29-yard gain. A long field goal attempt for any other team instead became a first-and-goal.

Later in that game, with the Chiefs driving in the fourth quarter while down three points, an intentional grounding penalty and a holding penalty combined to set up second-and-30 for the Chiefs at their own 31. The Broncos sent four rushers against Mahomes in an empty backfield and won when Von Miller got the edge against Chiefs right tackle Mitchell Schwartz, forcing Mahomes to step up in the pocket. Once Mahomes broke the pocket and drifted to his right, interior lineman Derek Wolfe was able to run away from right guard Laurent Duvernay-Tardif, forcing Mahomes to the edge. Running full speed ahead to the sideline, chased by Wolfe and Miller, Mahomes threw a low seed across his body to DeMarcus Robinson. Robinson broke off his initial route and was playing out of the context of the play against Broncos safety Justin Simmons. Robinson caught the sinking ball at his feet, and second-and-30 running to the sideline became third-and-7. On the next play, Mahomes found Demetrius Harris for 35 yards. Two plays later, the Chiefs had the lead.

That game wasn't the end of Mahomes'

2018 heroics — far from it. He would win the NFL's MVP award once Drew Brees stalled out in December. He led his team back from a 14-0 halftime deficit against the Patriots in the AFC Championship Game, though he never had a real chance to win thanks to the NFL's overtime rules. Mahomes' 50 touchdown passes led the league. Andy Reid's offensive designs took a quarterback who makes everything look easy and made him look superhuman.

Mahomes is a natural outgrowth of what Russell Wilson and Colin Kaepernick started when they first came into the league in the early 2010s,

winning off the typical script is becoming the norm for NFL quarterbacks. For one thing, it's a lot easier to find a quarterback early on in his career who can add that element than it is to find a young Peyton Manning. Manning won by being hyper-focused on pre-snap reads, accuracy and quick decision-making. Few quarterbacks in history have been able to match how quickly his processor runs. But quarterbacks as otherwise limited as Tyrod Taylor have been able to lead effective offenses because of their contributions in the run game. Quarterbacks such as Wilson and Deshaun Watson have been able to buy extra time with their feet and hit

“

When Mahomes shows up, the only thought that pops into your mind is resignation, really.”

— Raiders coach Jon Gruden

when plays outside the normal structure of a passing offense became real difference-makers in the NFL. Kaepernick rolled to one Super Bowl on the back of a balanced offense that allowed him to use his ability to run to help set up easier passing lanes. Wilson won a Super Bowl and made another even though his offense didn't utilize him as a designed part of the run game as much as it could have. Wilson's playmaking out of play-action and on the run made him a difference-maker, even though analysts and coaches at the time were a little slow to recognize quarterback mobility in the run game as a boon. Option attacks had never translated from the NCAA to the NFL, and the thought was that this new flurry of mobile QBs was just a fluke.

But as we head toward the 2020s,

big plays downfield with those precious seconds.

Simply put, what Mahomes demonstrated in his first season as a starter marked him as the best in the league at winning off-script. Raiders coach Jon Gruden said of Mahomes at the Senior Bowl: “When Mahomes shows up, the only thought that pops into your mind is resignation, really.”

In Week 3 against the 49ers, Mahomes caught pressure on third-and-goal from San Francisco edge rusher Cassius Marsh, who bullied past left tackle Eric Fisher. Mahomes flipped his hips and ran to Marsh's edge, then quickly reversed field a second time. This is the sort of thing you see a lot of young quarterbacks do, and aside from Wilson, most of them don't get away with it. For every incredible play that

Mahomes MAGIC

results from retreating backwards, there are 10 Case Keenum-esque sacks that put a team in instant-punt territory. When Mahomes reversed his field a second time, he shook the entire 49ers pass rush and ran down the field to his right to throw a touchdown pass. It left even announcer Thom Brennaman stuttering, "Are you kidding me?" Careful readers will note that this article began with two plays from the Broncos game, and neither was the famed left-handed pass to convert third down late in the game. Mahomes, in his first season, became a quarterback with the

full-time starting quarterback in the NFL, with just 12.2 percent of his throws going into tightly contested windows. That points not merely to Mahomes' greatness but also to the ease with which Reid's offense afforded Mahomes open throws and the skills of the players around him.

Tyreek Hill was amazing at winning one-on-one deep balls, and Mahomes' ability to lead him perfectly into open space made Kansas City one of the most explosive offenses in the NFL. Kelce's frame is one of the most imposing things any defensive coordinator has to deal with

Stats charts a statistic called "Aggressiveness%," or the percentage of balls thrown into tight coverage. Mahomes had the lowest Aggressiveness% of any

unsuccessful completion rate was the lowest in the NFL among full-time starters last season. When Mahomes threw the ball, the design of the offense often made sure that the completions were getting the right amount of yardage to stay on script, at the very least.

Six of Mahomes' 12 interceptions came on deep throws against zone coverage. Five of those six throws were targeted at Hill. The common factor on all of them, interestingly enough, was that the balls were so far off-target that Hill didn't leap for a single one of them. The two balls that were on-script were poor throws — a long overthrow and a short underthrow. The other three were Mahomes trying to make something out of nothing.

In Week 9 against the Browns, Mahomes threw an interception toward the end zone because it was third-and-11 from the Cleveland 43, and every route the Chiefs had went 10 or more yards past the sticks. Mahomes' throw to Hill downfield was Denzel Rice's from the second it was thrown. In Week 14 against the Ravens, initial pressure forced Mahomes to step up in the pocket, and an arm around his waist had him throw off-platform and sidearm at the same time. There were open receivers in the area, but the ball was lobbed up and not a worthy challenge of the defense.

This isn't to say that Mahomes doesn't make wild throws; it's to say that the process of his deep misses against zone was still generally quite good. He was reading the coverages correctly but couldn't correctly ascertain if his body would enable him to complete the ball or not.

A couple of throws in Kansas City's Week 16 loss against Seattle exemplified the issues he had in this area. In the opening drive of the game, Mahomes threw on the run to Robinson against deep corner Shaquill Griffin in Cover-3, who had been beat. But because Mahomes was on the run, the ball didn't have enough on it to lead the receiver. Griffin was able to recover. In the second quarter, trying to spark a drive before halftime, Mahomes successfully stepped up in the pocket and saw Kelce over the middle against a Cover-4 look, but he stepped so far up that he was in the lap of his linemen, and so the ball thudded to the turf before it could get to Kelce.

More of the egregious misses were short throws. In fact, they were easy throws. Mahomes threw incomplete on seven dif-

over the middle of the field. Mahomes' ability to throw off-platform and from awkward arm angles stymied defenses that wanted to keep the ball out of Kelce's hands via blitzing. Blitz packages usually wind up with inferior cover players or disguised assignments having to take on a defender, and the technical skill of Kelce and Mahomes in those situations is a lot to account for.

So even though some of Mahomes' interceptions reek of rushed process

or the famed "gunslinger mentality" — Gruden even compared Mahomes to Brett Favre at one point last season — in actuality, he was one of the least aggressive quarterbacks in the league. Where that really manifested was against zone coverage.

Mahomes threw the ball 578 times last season. Per the game charting of Sports Info Solutions, of Mahomes' unsuccessful plays, 171 were against zone coverage versus only 88 against man coverage. It wasn't an issue of unsuccessful completions, either — Mahomes' 16.2 percent

Quarterbacks by lowest percentage of aggressive throws, 2018

Player	Team	AGG%
Brock Osweiler	MIA	8.4%
Nick Mullens	SF	12.0%
Cody Kessler	JAX	12.2%
Patrick Mahomes	KC	12.2%
Marcus Mariota	TEN	12.7%

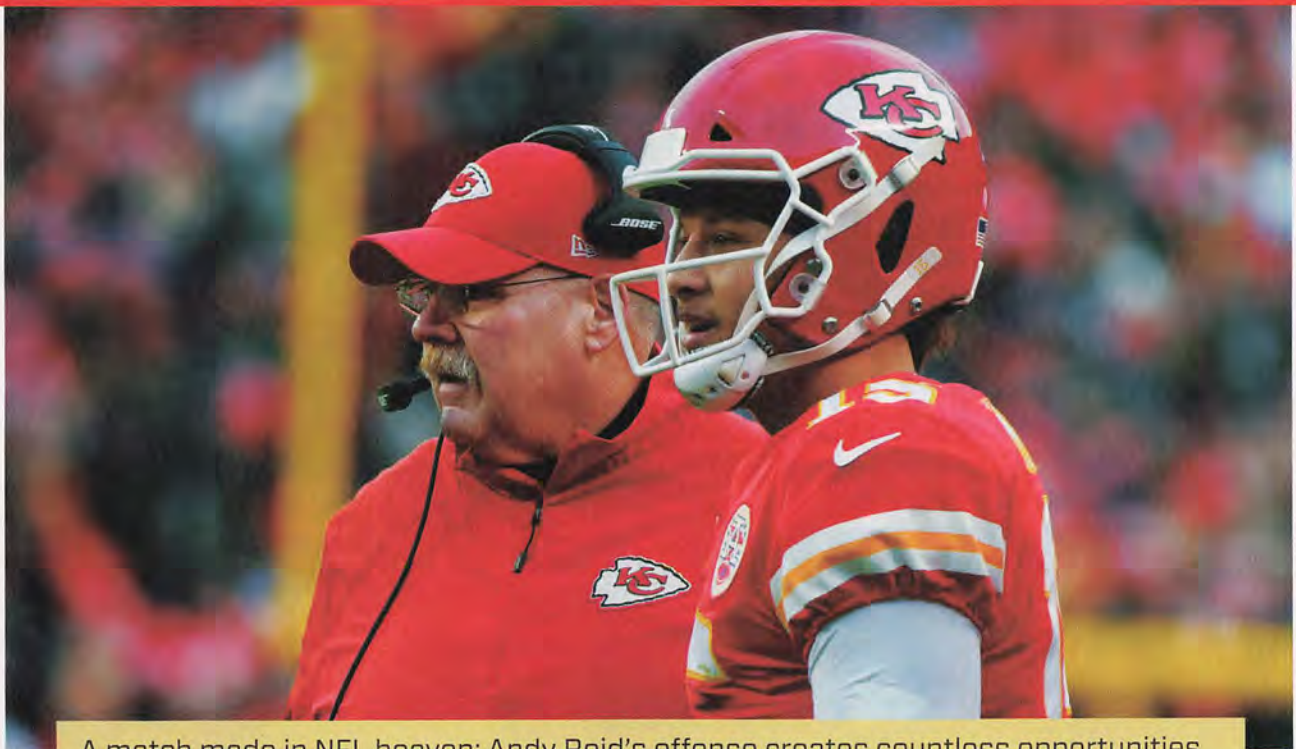
Quarterbacks by highest percentage of aggressive throws, 2018

Josh Rosen	ARI	21.6%
Jeff Driskel	CIN	21.0%
Ryan Fitzpatrick	TB	20.7%
Jameis Winston	TB	20.4%
Sam Darnold	NYJ	19.6%

Source: NFL Next Gen Stats

potential to erase any mistake his offense made.

In hooking up with Reid, Mahomes was able to create a statistically historic season despite the fact that there are still parts of his game he can improve upon. Reid's work in creating elaborate and devastating screens has been a Chiefs staple for years, and under Mahomes in 2018, that continued. Only one team with 60 or more screen passes had a higher success rate than the Chiefs: Reid's old team in Philadelphia. NFL Next Gen



A match made in NFL heaven: Andy Reid's offense creates countless opportunities for Mahomes to flash his unique brand of creative magic.

ferent screen passes. Most of his egregious miscues involved curl routes and not being able to properly read the lay of the land underneath in those moments. The ball that Samson Ebukam intercepted and returned to the house in the Week 11 Monday Night Football points-fest against the Rams was designed to be a quick curl to Demetrius Harris. Mahomes never saw the passing lane reduction coming, and the ball was plucked by the linebacker. In Week 15 against the Chargers, Mahomes took a snap on third-and-3 with 8:18 left in the second quarter and found his early option double-covered underneath, with four Chargers in the middle of the field. The threat of a swing pass left Harris against Chargers defensive back Michael Davis, but by the time Mahomes threw the ball, Davis had his heels dug in and was ready to charge on the ball. Mahomes' process simply didn't respect the defenders on those curls as much as he needed to. He hasn't properly figured out the timing on coming back to a stationary route later in a down quite yet.

But when we're leading with that as a criticism, it's pretty clear where Mahomes' destiny lies. We haven't seen a quarterback combine this level of skill with instant results since Robert Griffin III — and Griffin wasn't anywhere near the passer that Mahomes is.

Statistically it's only natural to expect and accept that some regression is coming in 2019. Quarterbacks don't throw for 50 touchdowns every year, and Kansas City's best players were able to stay on the field. The only real talent losses the Chiefs suffered were Duvernay-Tardif for a couple of months and Kareem Hunt after video proof of his domestic violence crystallized that situation for the Chiefs and the NFL. Center Mitch Morse and Harris fled in free agency, and the Chiefs don't have an obvious replacement for Morse on the roster. And the expected loss of Hill, one of the most dynamic players in the league, would be a significant blow to the Chiefs attack moving forward.

The hanging question is whether Mahomes can improve. At the end of the day, that's something that we can't know the answer to from the outside. Everything we've seen and read so far would lead us to believe that Mahomes is a smart, hard-working quarterback. That doesn't necessarily beget improvement, but it is a good sign. The talent is already so, so evident. Is Mahomes going to be able to refine it? We'll want to be watching for how far he wants to stretch his out-of-structure playmaking. Does he rein it in on throws he has learned he can't make, or are we going to get a few awkward throws a season because he's so good that it's not worth

putting him on a leash? Is Mahomes going to grow with his pre-snap reads to the point where, like the Mannings, Tom Bradys, and Philip Rivers of the world, he can win before the ball is even snapped? Will he get more consistent with his reads against shorter zone coverages?

What we saw from Mahomes in his first season as a starter was a player who could reach absurd heights on every throw. We saw a system and player foundation that made his arm talent matter on a level that could dictate opposing coverages. We saw a player who threatened a defense every time he dropped back, no matter what kind of pass rush found its way into the backfield. We saw this new-age hybrid of Favre and Wilson who made sure the defense had no safety on any patch of the field.

In a world where everything is hyped before it ever delivers, Mahomes was an unexpected superstar from his first snap. The only thing that kept him out of the Super Bowl was his own team's suspect defense. Expecting him to improve feels a bit unfair. But as Mahomes gets a little more comfortable with his abilities, and learns a bit more about when to hit the throttle and when to dial it back, it's possible he just gets better.

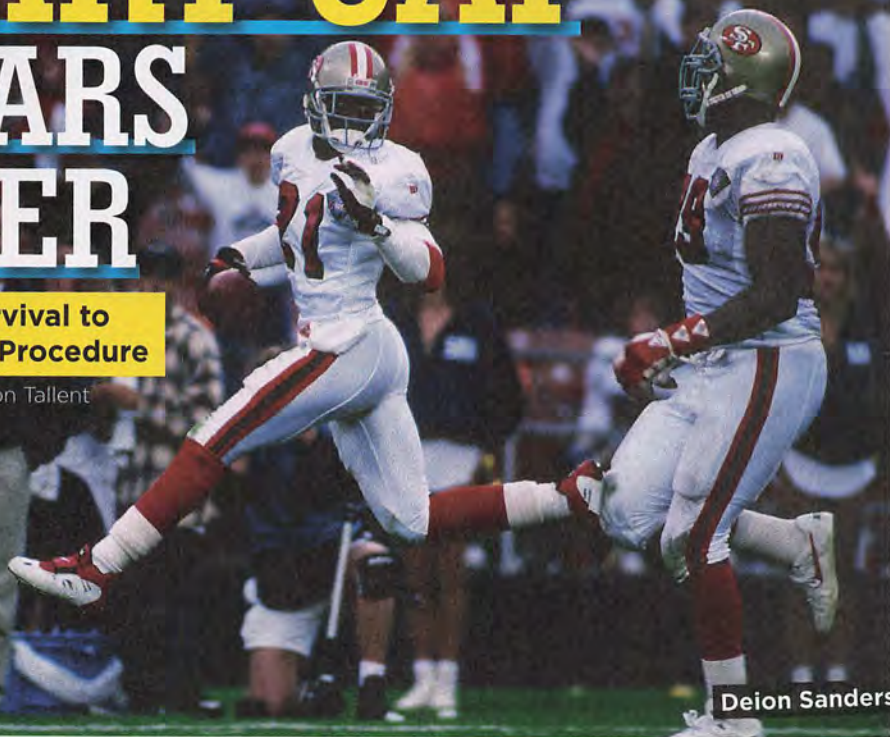
It's possible that we were just watching the start of something historic.

THE SALARY CAP

25 YEARS LATER

From a Matter of Survival to Standard Operating Procedure

By Aaron Tallent



Deion Sanders

Twenty-five years ago, pro football changed forever when it instituted the salary cap. Gone were the days when franchises could stockpile talent for years.

In their place was a new level of parity that would transform the league. For a team like the San Francisco 49ers, a franchise that had won four Super Bowls by spending big and accumulating talented depth, there were only two choices: change or perish.

"All of a sudden, I'm looking at a franchise that still has a veteran group of players and our goal was always the Super Bowl," says Carmen Policy, president and CEO of the 49ers from 1991-97. "Working under the cap literally became a matter of survival for us."

They didn't just survive. They went big and won, and Policy became known as the "Master of the Cap." In 1994, the first year of the cap, San Francisco restructured its team to assemble an unprecedented roster of veterans that included five future Hall of Famers to win a fifth Super Bowl. To do so, they had to operate in a manner that teams never had before as the league adjusted to the new cap.

To understand how the salary cap came to fruition in the NFL, one must look at

the evolution of free agency, because the two go hand in hand and came to the league at the same time. "Unrestricted free agency has been extremely beneficial to players," says Mark Levin, director of Salary Cap and Agent Administration for the NFL Players Association (NFLPA). "It's something that the union fought for over years and years, and we were finally able to achieve. It didn't come easy, though."



Reggie White's free agent signing with the Packers was a catalyst for the new era of cap-anomics.

NFL players had been fighting for decades for unrestricted free agency, and in 1989, the NFLPA sued the league. The owners preemptively responded with the limited "Plan B" free agency system, which allowed teams to protect 37 players on their rosters. The rest became free agents.

New York Jets running back Freeman McNeil led a lawsuit filed by seven players against Plan B, and a federal jury ruled in 1992 that it violated antitrust laws. This prompted the team owners and NFLPA to resume negotiations, and in 1993, they agreed to free agency in exchange for a salary cap to maintain competitive balance. Free agency would begin in 1993 with the cap starting in 1994.

The effects of free agency became immediately clear the moment Philadelphia Eagles defensive end Reggie White signed a four-year contract with the Green Bay Packers worth \$17 million in 1993. Policy realized he had a challenge on his hands when San Francisco's All-Pro defensive end Pierce Holt signed a three-year guaranteed contract with the Atlanta Falcons for \$7.5 million.

"The game-changer was that we were going to have to acknowledge a far more aggressive form of free agency than we had ever experienced," says Policy. "I basi-

Sanders: Greg Trott/AP; White: David Durochik/AP; 49ers QBs: Al Golub/AP; Policy: John G. Mabanglo/Getty

cally had to sit down and figure out how I'm going to keep this team together."

In 1992, the 49ers went 14-2 before losing to the eventual Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys 30-20 in the NFC Championship Game. The Cowboys were a team composed primarily of young players still in rookie contracts. They could (and did) win a few more Super Bowls before free agency and the salary cap forced them to make difficult choices about players.

After that 1992 season, the 49ers, a team full of veterans, would have to begin restructuring the team immediately if they were going to have a shot at another Super Bowl. Jerry Rice had two years remaining on his contract, but league MVP Steve Young's was at its end, and he was in a quarterback controversy with Joe Montana, who had just come off injured reserve after nearly two seasons.

In addition, many other key players would become free agents over the next three years. The team needed to act before those contracts ended, and its weapon of choice would be the signing bonus.

"I saw an opening that would allow us to extend the contracts of key players that we wanted to keep on our team," says Policy. "It required an infusion of cash that would allow us to do the signing bonuses spread out over future years with cooper-

so the hit is only \$2 million each of those five years.

But that's with the cap in place. If Policy restructured the contracts of key players with lucrative signing bonuses in 1993, they would not count against the first cap in 1994.

He presented his plan to 49ers owner Eddie DeBartolo Jr., whose father owned one of the largest real estate businesses in the United States. Afterwards, the two men sat down with Eddie DeBartolo Sr., who loaned them the \$10 million needed to keep the players.

"We got the cash. Put it into the team. And that's how we kept the team together," says Policy.

The work began immediately. After having traded Montana to the Kansas City Chiefs earlier that spring, Policy signed Young to a five-year, \$26.75 million contract, the highest in NFL history at the time. Then in December 1993, Policy locked in several key players, signing No. 2 receiver John Taylor, tight end Brent Jones, offensive tackles Harris Barton and Steve



A sight you will never see again: two Hall of Fame quarterbacks on one roster. The salary cap makes another Montana-Young situation impossible.

has evolved with each collective bargaining agreement (CBA), but its basic fundamental is that players are guaranteed a percentage of the revenue the league generates, including television contracts and stadium naming rights. From that percentage, the NFL and NFLPA determine the cost of benefits, which includes pension, 401k and preseason and postseason pay. Once that is removed, the remaining percentage is the salary cap. To give an example of how finite this is, the Fox Network's outbidding of CBS to begin broadcasting NFL games helped push the first cap from \$32 million to \$34.6 million in 1994.

By late March, the 49ers were just \$456 under the cap. That was survival, but not enough to build a championship team, so they had to make some very tough choices.

To free up space, the 49ers traded proven veteran quarterback Steve Bono to the Chiefs and cut longtime kicker Mike Cofer, backup running back Amp Lee, linebacker Keith DeLong and guard Guy McIntyre, who had won three Super Bowls with the team.

Two of the toughest moves came with fullback Tom Rathman and linebacker Bill Romanowski. Rathman had been an offensive weapon and surefire blocker for Montana and running back Roger Craig on two Super Bowl teams, but he had been plagued by injuries and was set to make \$985,000. The 49ers cut him in late June, and he signed a two-year, \$1.2 million contract with the Raiders in July.

Romanowski had recorded nearly 450 tackles in six seasons and was set to make \$1.2 million. San Francisco traded him to the Philadelphia Eagles for a third- and sixth-round pick the day before the 1994 NFL Draft. In his autobiography, Roma-

"I saw an opening that would allow us to extend the contracts of key players that we wanted to keep on our team. It required an infusion of cash that would allow us to do the signing bonuses spread out over future years with cooperation from players in terms of the way we structure contracts."

— Carmen Policy, president and CEO of the 49ers from 1991-97, on how he built a Super Bowl-winning roster in 1994, the first year of the salary cap



tion from players in terms of the way we structure contracts."

Signing bonuses give teams more leeway to compensate players under the salary cap because they are prorated. If a team signs a player to a five-year contract with a \$10 million signing bonus, it is spread out over the length of the contract

Wallace, safety Merton Hanks and cornerback Eric Davis with restructured long-term contracts. Even with that foundation, San Francisco went 10-6 in 1993, lost to Dallas 38-21 in the NFC Championship Game and was still significantly above the inaugural salary cap.

The formula for setting up the salary cap

THE SALARY CAP 25 YEARS LATER

nowski recounts telling his wife, "They don't want me here. I'll make a name for myself there." He lived up to that statement, going on to win two more Super Bowls with the Denver Broncos, but his trade is a reminder of the reality of the cap.

"If we don't trade Bill Romanowski, we really would not have been able to sign all of our draft picks because of the cap," says Policy. "By trading him to Philadelphia, that enabled us to utilize all of our draft picks and get those guys signed."

With cap space coming piecemeal, San Francisco went to work signing players. Almost all of them came from NFC competitors.

"If you want to win, and you see New England do this today, you always take from your competitors," says Toi Cook, a defensive back who signed with the 49ers after seven seasons with the New Orleans Saints.

San Francisco also signed Cook's teammate, linebacker Rickey Jackson, as well as defensive end Richard Dent from the Chicago Bears. From the NFC East, San Francisco signed Dallas middle linebacker Ken Norton Jr., New York Giants three-time Pro Bowl center Bart Oates and wide receiver Ed McCaffrey.

"The only player signed from the AFC was San Diego linebacker Gary Plummer, and we met them in the Super Bowl," says Cook.

Of course the biggest acquisition was Deion Sanders. "Neon Deion" had established himself as the premier cornerback in the NFL and electrified Atlanta fans playing for the Falcons and the Braves. However, after a 6–10 season with the Falcons, he began looking to offer his services to a winning team while devoting himself to football. After meeting DeBartolo Jr., he decided that the team in 1994 would be San Francisco.

The 49ers structured Sanders' contract so he could join the team after he finished playing baseball and be an unrestricted free agent after the 1994 season. This enabled him to sign a seven-year, \$35 million contract with the Cowboys in 1995.

Sanders made \$1.1 million in base salary for the 49ers in 1994, but he had a shot at an additional \$750,000 in incentives. Others, like Cook, who turned down \$1 million to play for the Cincinnati Bengals, signed for the league minimum of \$162,000 but also had significant incentives on the back end.

"I felt like I was going to make a million dollars with the 49ers and I was going to get a Super Bowl ring," says Cook. "That was more valuable to me than playing in Cincinnati."

This was a complete departure from the approach of previous head coach Bill Walsh, who built his team through the draft and then cut players before their performance declined — or at least that was the goal. Policy was signing veterans to get one to three more years out of them.

It did not come without sacrifice from the players, either. Norton, Plummer and Pro Bowl safety Tim

The Catch-22 of the Franchise Quarterback

When free agency and a salary cap were first introduced in 1993, the San Francisco 49ers were in the process of ending a seven-year quarterback controversy between Steve Young and Joe Montana. It was the last time any team would ever hold two future Hall of Fame quarterbacks for that long. The cap makes it impossible today.

If free agency and a salary cap had been around in the 1980s, Young likely would have left San Francisco in 1989 for a lucrative contract. The 49ers would then have faced what most NFL teams face today — having their success rest almost solely on their franchise quarterback.

In the years since the cap was agreed upon, we have gone from a Montana/Young controversy to Indianapolis Colts offensive coordinator Tom Moore famously responding to Jon Gruden's question on why he did not give Peyton Manning's backups more reps: "Fellas, if '18' goes down, we're f---ed. And we don't practice f---ed."

Manning is the best example of how losing your franchise quarterback can derail your season. After nine straight playoff appearances, Manning had to miss the entire 2011 season because of neck surgery. The Colts had to scramble, luring Kerry Collins out of retirement and then turning to backup Curtis Painter on the way to a 2–14 season.

With the exception of teams with a QB still on a rookie contract, NFL franchises have to spend anywhere from 10–15 percent of their cap to keep their quarterback, making it difficult to hold on to other players. In 2018, the Oakland Raiders were unable to keep both quarterback Derek Carr and outside linebacker Khalil Mack under the cap, so they traded Mack to the Bears, who signed him to a six-year deal worth \$141 million.

"Where you have a little problem today is with the big dollars that go to three players on the team," says Carmen Policy, president and CEO of the 49ers from 1991–97. "That's where you have to really measure and evaluate the other 60 or so that you're going to be looking at."

The 1994 San Francisco 49ers paid Young \$5.3 million, taking up around 15 percent of the cap. Since then, Super Bowl-winning teams have generally kept the percentage between eight and 12 percent.

"If you've got a franchise quarterback on your team, you've got to take care of him. That's it," says Policy.



Peyton Manning & Tom Moore



Derek Carr

McDonald restructured their contracts to make room for Sanders. Then, in late August, Rice, McDonald and running back Ricky Watters gave up incentives so the team could field a practice squad.

"We were like guys out on the street with a tin cup going around to some of our players saying, 'It's not that we don't want to pay you, we just need something from you to get the cap space to allow us to do it.' And they did it. They gave us a practice squad," says Policy.

Five months later, San Francisco capped off the season with a 49-26 win over the Chargers in Super Bowl XXIX.

Sanders would win another Super Bowl with the Cowboys the next season, but he has said that the 1994 49ers were the best team he ever played for. While other champions have had better records, this team may be the best to ever be assembled and disassembled so quickly, as many of the players would leave after the 1994 and 1995 seasons.

"When you go down the roster and look at each player, it's probably the greatest of all time, in my opinion," says Cook.

Policy was criticized by many owners, including Dallas' Jerry Jones, for mort-

gaging the 49ers' future for success in the present. In some ways he was right. The 49ers made the playoffs the next four seasons and the NFC Championship Game in 1997. However, by the end of the 1998 season, the 49ers were millions over the salary cap and began having to purge their roster of veterans.

Then everything crashed with a career-ending concussion to Young in 1999, as the 49ers went 4-12, ending their streak of 16 seasons with 10 or more wins. By that point, DeBartolo was in the midst of ceding control of the franchise because of legal troubles, Policy was president and CEO of the Cleveland Browns, and Walsh had returned as vice president and general manager.

Like the 49ers, every franchise has had to rebuild since the salary cap was implemented, and instead of adjusting on the fly, they are now able to do so with a mix of building through the draft and signing veterans through free agency at market value. The New England Patriots are the poster franchise for doing this, but it is something every successful team in the league now does.

The salary cap has also mushroomed

along with the NFL's popularity. By the end of the 1990s, the cap was just under \$60 million. This year's cap is \$188.2 million and has evolved with each collective bargaining agreement.

In 2011, the league added a minimum spend requirement after smaller market teams like the Cincinnati Bengals and Tampa Bay Buccaneers were coming in far below it.

"Prior to 2011, you had teams that were spending in cash to players as a percentage of the cap in the high 60s and lows 70s," says Levin. "We had to come up with a system that requires teams to spend without creating a ceiling, and we accomplished that with the 89 percent of cap spending requirements for each club over two separate four-year periods."

Players also now receive 47 percent of all revenue, and salaries have increased significantly. In 1995, the median player salary was \$301,000. Today, it is \$860,000.

Despite all of this growth, do good teams ever need to be as creative as the 1994 49ers were to survive under the salary cap?

"It's not necessary," says Policy. "We've been dealing with the system for 25 years."

INVESTING WISELY IN THE SHUTDOWN CORNERBACK

The key final piece to the San Francisco 49ers' 1994 Super Bowl season was signing Falcons cornerback Deion Sanders in free agency. "Neon Deion" snagged six picks and helped elevate a defense ranked 16th in 1993 to the sixth best in 1994. He also helped teams see the true value in a shutdown cornerback.

"Back then, I don't think that the value placed on corners was understood as much as it is now," says Toi Cook, a defensive back who signed with the 49ers in 1994 after seven seasons with the New Orleans Saints.

When the Saints drafted Cook in 1987, the team had five defensive backs on its roster. Today, the game has moved from a balanced offensive approach to a one that relies on the pass, and teams are carrying 10 to 12 DBs.

Teams are also willing to pony up to pay for a defensive back like Sanders, who can control a swath of the gridiron, the same way they would a pass-rush specialist. The best example of this is Darrelle Revis, whose ability to render top-flight receivers useless was so renowned that wherever he lined up on the field became known as "Revis Island." In 2013, the New York Jets cornerback signed a six-year deal worth \$96 million with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, making him the highest-paid defensive back in NFL history. However, none of it was guaranteed, and new head coach Lovie Smith cut him and his \$16 million salary after one year.

The New England Patriots quickly snatched up Revis with a one-year, \$12 million contract, and he won a Super Bowl with the franchise. They then released him, and he returned to the Jets in 2015, signing a five-year, \$70 million contract with \$39 million guaranteed.

While no defensive back has surpassed the financial success of Revis, most teams have made a heavy investment in at least one shutdown corner. In 2017, the Patriots signed Buffalo Bills cornerback Stephon Gilmore to a five-year, \$65 million contract. Gilmore was a first-team All-Pro last year and intercepted Rams quarterback Jared Goff late in the fourth quarter to seal a 13-3 win in Super Bowl LIII.

"When you look at the football field, everyone sees something different. Some people see it as a chess match. Some people see it as checkers. Some people see it as real estate," says Cook.

And like the chess players and real estate developers, the best teams in the NFL spend wisely on a player who can control part of the field.



Stephon Gilmore



Trent Brown

Gaming the System

How the Patriots use the compensatory pick rules to their advantage

by Rivers McCown

In Super Bowl LIII, the Patriots started three players whom they had acquired via trade: Kyle Van Noy at linebacker, Jason McCourty at cornerback and Trent Brown at left tackle. The Patriots have had Tom Brady for years and have supplemented him with homegrown stars such as Devin McCourty, Dont'a Hightower and Julian Edelman. But one of the core tenets of their roster-building philosophy has been finding the market inefficiency at the intersection of trading for veteran players and receiving compensatory draft picks for their own free agents. It's a reason why they're able to generate good players and draft picks seemingly out of thin air, and

it gives them more margin for error in the draft than most teams have.

The transactions involving Brown were enormous for New England, because he played a huge part in its Super Bowl win and after that received an enormous contract to join the Raiders. Brown was available last offseason, at the draft, for only a swap of picks. The Patriots had to trade their third-round pick to San Francisco to get Brown and a fifth-round pick. Brown, a 6'8", 380-pound mauler with rare agility for his size, was available because he was on the last year of his rookie deal, and the 49ers had drafted Mike McGlinchey in the first round to pair with Joe Staley.

Brown immediately plugged in and

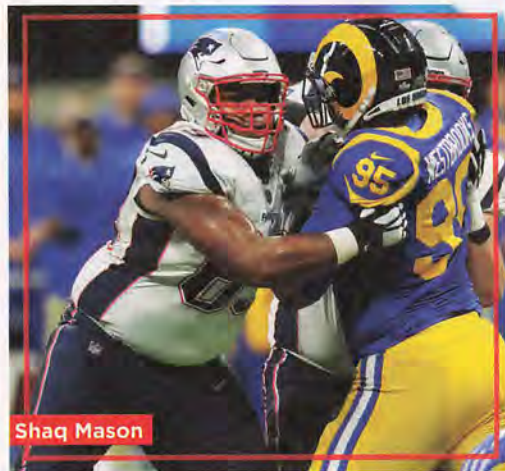
replaced Nate Solder. Solder left the Patriots for a contract with nearly \$35 million in guarantees from the Giants. But what Solder also left the Patriots with was a compensatory pick, because the Patriots didn't sign a free agent who qualified in the same average-per-year ballpark as their former left tackle. That pick, in the third round, was an extra one in the New England arsenal for the 2019 draft. Brown's departure to the Raiders, likely will add another third-round pick to New England's stash, because the Patriots didn't sign a high-dollar replacement.

For some teams, losing a former first-round tackle creates a gaping wound that takes years to recover from. The Bengals

Brown: Winslow Townson/AP

lost Andrew Whitworth to free agency in 2017 and haven't been able to cobble together a good line since. The Patriots not only replaced Solder, but they also acquired two third-round picks and a season of solid tackle play for moving down 48 spots in the draft. Oh, and the player they picked in the fifth round, Ja'Whaun Bentley, started two games and showed promise before going down with a long-term injury.

The way the compensation pick system works is incredibly complex, and the formula itself is not public, but let's talk about the simple and short version that can be understood and reverse-engineered. The higher a free agent's average per-year salary is, the more likely he is to fetch a third-round pick in the formula. Signing players who qualify for the formula — released players don't count, only actual free agents — cancels out players you lose if they are close enough in average salary. Ergo, the system incentivizes teams that are losing highly paid players not to replace them through traditional free agency, but to replace them with players who were released or through trades.



Shaq Mason

Trades are the easiest way to circumvent the system. When the Patriots traded for Brown, they were avoiding signing someone who would affect their compensation pick outlay. When they traded for Jason McCourty in March 2018 instead of signing one of the many cornerbacks in the free agent class, it followed the same reasoning. Their caution toward the free agent market is why they wound up with two additional third-round picks in the 2019 draft and are set to have two more in the 2020 draft.

But this knowledge also lets them make some moves with an eye toward their own

future. Remember when the Browns traded a third-round pick for Jamie Collins in 2016? The Patriots were willing to make that move because six days earlier they acquired Van Noy in a swap of a sixth-round pick for a seventh-round pick. Collins was released by the Browns this past March, while Van Noy is still with the Patriots.

Finally, guard Shaq Mason was a fourth-round pick whom the Patriots hit on and paid. But I actually want to demonstrate the value that these picks brought to the Patriots in a different way: I want to show you the players they have drafted who haven't hit. Their third-round pick in 2015, a compensatory pick, was Geneo Grissom, who never started a game for the team. Their fourth-round pick that year? Trey Flowers, who just earned a huge, well-deserved contract in free agency after accumulating 21 sacks in three years as a starter. Drafted ahead of Mason in the fourth round? Florida State's Tre' Jackson, who started just nine games for the team after experiencing knee issues. If we assume that the Patriots went with the original order of those picks, they'd have had to fade a team taking Flowers before their second fourth-round pick at 111th overall. If they'd wound up with Jackson as their second fourth-round pick, Mason would have had to last until pick 166 to still be a Patriot. If you assume the worst, the Patriots could have left the bottom of that draft with zero contributors. By making compensation picks a priority, they had two.

And because Flowers got a huge contract from the Lions, they should get a third-round pick for his services as well.

There's a high turnover rate on every NFL roster, and there's a huge incentive to acquire performing NFL players on rookie contracts. With 22 starting spots, not everybody is going to be able to get paid at the same time. The more capital a team has as far as young, cost-controlled performing players, the more flexibility it has.

This has been one of the secret formulas to New England's success. They are able to afford to make moves like splurging on Darrelle Revis or Stephon Gilmore because they've been successful in creating young, cost-controlled starters. They've been able to create those starters because they are intentionally feeding into a roster model that will give them as many swings at the draft board as they possibly can get.



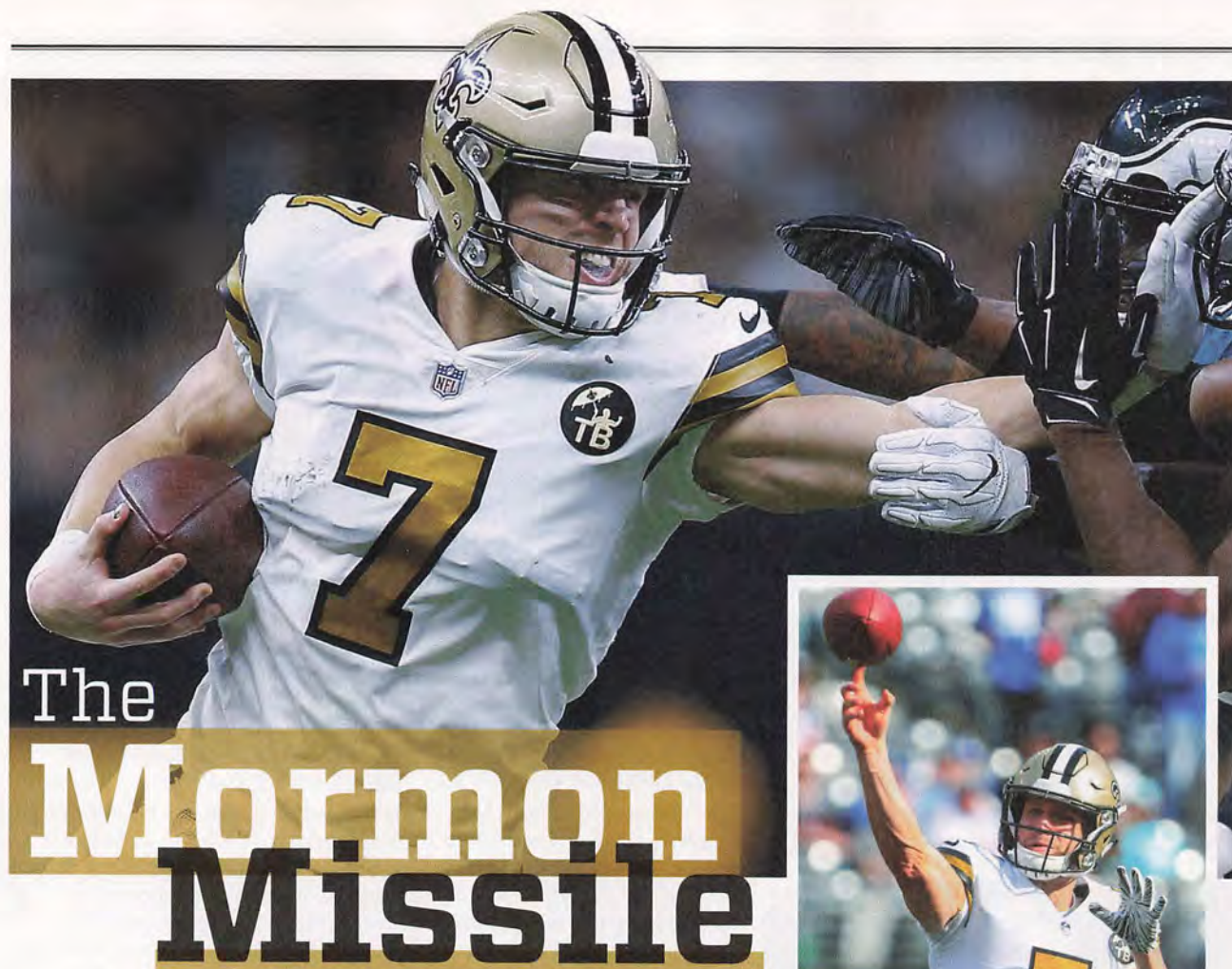
Ja'Whaun Bentley

That doesn't mean they never sign a free agent, and it doesn't mean they always draft well. What it means is that they've developed a system in which they are always playing the best odds they can get.

This NFL Draft alone, the Patriots were able to add four extra picks via the compensation system. The hole Brown left is scheduled to be filled by a 2018 first-round pick, Georgia's Isaiah Wynn. Rather than deal with a bloated edge rusher market, they traded for Philadelphia's Michael Bennett. Bennett is regarded as a malcontent around the league but recorded nine sacks last season and is one of the NFL's best linemen in terms of technique. The Pats dropped two rounds in the draft and picked up one of the best pass rushers in the NFL. There are teams that would have re-signed Flowers and left it at that. The Pats are going to get Flowers-level production, and then also the compensation pick for losing him.

The Pats entered the 2019 draft armed with 12 picks, and the three days in Nashville offered more of the same for a franchise that is constantly filling needs. Experts gave the Patriots' class high grades after New England managed to fill voids while also stashing away future producers — including drafting Brady's possible successor, Auburn's Jarrett Stidham.

The Patriots aren't the only team that has caught on to this game — the Ravens under general manager Ozzie Newsome were also quite adept at it. But when you pair a roster creation strategy like this with Brady and Bill Belichick, you have a sustainable system for bootstrapping the roster depth that differentiates the Patriots. It's a strategy that has kept them comfortably in the NFL's elite for the last 20 seasons.



Taysom Hill has emerged as the NFL's most versatile weapon By Eric Adelson



Taysom Hill is asked how surprised he was about his 2018 season. He pauses for a moment.

"When you say 'surprised,'" he offers, "in what capacity? Quarterback? Offense? Special teams? Or all three?"

It's not a boast, or a flex. It's just a reflection of how a sophomore season in the NFL ramped him up from just another backup quarterback to something of a New Orleans superhero. Hill finished third on the Saints in rushing yards, played 343 snaps on special teams, and put in as much work as a quarterback (58 snaps) as he did at tight end. That wasn't all: He lined up in the slot and out wide as well. And this wasn't in garbage time. Head coach Sean Payton often went to Hill in red zone or short-yardage situations. In one season, Hill found a role that is unlike any other in the modern NFL.

He's now referred to by teammates and fans and coaches as everything from "The

Mormon Missile" to "Thor-terback" to "Fred Flintstone." There's even a cartoon in which he plays a satirical role of Tyler Durden in "Flight Club," telling Drew Brees, "You were looking for a way to stop being boring and great, so you made *me* up so you could be interesting and great!"

There's some truth to that, as the Saints offense has been machine-like under Brees for many years. Hill made it more fun, unpredictable and mesmerizing. He was several players at once, and there was always a promise of some other talent he was about to show. (He kicked and punted in high school, in case you're wondering.) There probably isn't a soul in the Crescent City who doesn't want more in 2019. "I think I played 20 percent [of offensive snaps]," Hill says. "I would love for that number to jump even higher."

It's appropriate that the inspiration for Taysom Hill's name came from a construction company. Taysom Construction of Pocatello, Idaho, gave his parents

a spark of an idea, and the name kept growing on them. Taysom the boy would be a sturdy structure built from a lot of solid parts: his mother Natalie ran track and played volleyball and his father Doug ran track and played football. The couple had three sons and a daughter, with Taysom the youngest, and he spent his childhood trying to catch up with the older kids. Jordan was a linebacker and bull-strong. Dexter was a quarterback and cat-quick. Taysom became something of an amalgam of both. But it was Dexter who was the biggest influence. "Taysom got Dexter's skill set at a young age," Doug says.

"Dexter was my very first quarterback," says Taysom's coach at Highland High, Gino Mariani. "Very much like Taysom. Dexter was extremely competitive. Just not the same size. A little smaller."

When it was Taysom's turn, the school already had a starting quarterback, so Mariani used Hill the way Saints would many years later. "He played a lot of

positions for us," Mariani says. "We used him at some defensive positions when the going got tough. As a sophomore he was our starting wide receiver. He was our placekicker, he did kickoffs, he was our punter. We used him at safety and middle linebacker ... when it was fourth-and-2 and we needed a stop."

Even when Taysom moved to the position of starting quarterback, Mariani felt he had to change his West Coast offense to a spread to fit his prodigy. "You don't see a kid who's 6'2" with his speed, and he was 219 when he played for me," the coach says. "Just so strong. Fast. He knew his ability. Knew what he could do. His intelligence was incredible."

On the first series of his senior season, Hill took the snap and rolled out to his left. He didn't see any openings, so he drew the play out as he approached the sideline. Then he tucked the ball and took off, running 87 yards. On the sideline, the coaches just looked at each other in amazement. There really wasn't anything Taysom couldn't do. As a prep he averaged 45 yards per punt.

He starred at a summer camp run by Jim Harbaugh at Stanford, and then the Pac-12 coaches came to Pocatello. "I was screaming at the top of my lungs he was the best QB in the country," Mariani says. "But here in little Pocatello, Idaho, not many people were going to listen."

Harbaugh listened. He signed Hill, and it seemed like a perfect fit ... until the Stanford coach left for the NFL. Hill went to BYU instead, enrolling there after his Latter Day Saints mission was completed.

The pattern repeated in Provo: Hill was a backup quarterback who was too good to keep off the field. He threw a touchdown on his very first play from scrimmage as a Cougar. And just like in high school, he took the starting job and thrived, throwing for 19 touchdowns as a sophomore. Then the injuries came.

Hill suffered four season-ending injuries in five years at BYU: knee, leg, foot, elbow. He went undrafted in 2017 despite running a 4.4 40 at BYU's Pro Day. Hill had to plan the rest of his life, which he hoped would include work as a venture capitalist. If it wasn't for the Packers taking a shot on him, he would likely be wearing a shirt and tie now.

Hill played in only three exhibition games with Green Bay in 2017, but he had three touchdowns (two passing, one rushing), and that was enough for the Saints to grab him only a day after the Packers let him go. By the end of that



"I would love to have the opportunity to compete to play the quarterback position in the NFL," he says in one breath, and then, in the next breath: "I would love for my role to continue to expand and grow." Those two sentences don't necessarily go together. Quarterbacks are the ones in the red mesh jerseys, not the ones screaming headlong into the fray.

By putting himself in harm's way, whether as a kick returner or a special teams player or even as a tight end, Hill risks the dream he wants the most. And he may be risking a future that the Saints need the most. Passers who grasp Payton's offense aren't easy to come by, after all. Will Hill ever be considered a true quarterback?

The Saints have Teddy Bridgewater as Brees' true backup, and he's two years younger than Hill, who will be 29 in August. Hill the Swiss Army knife is very much in his prime, but Hill the quarterback is not young. His all-around ability seems to overshadow his promise at the position that matters most.

"His strength is under center," his father Doug says. "It kinda bothers me."

What doesn't bother Doug, or Taysom, is the chance to learn from Brees. "To experience that was definitely the highlight for me last year," Hill says.

When he and Dexter played in the yard as kids, it was often Brees whom Dexter emulated most. It's Dexter's old No. 7 that Taysom wears to honor him. That's because when Dexter was 31 years old, he passed away from the effects of opioid addiction. It was crushing for Taysom and all of the Hills. But it is a constant source of pride that Taysom is No. 7, right alongside Brees on every football Sunday.

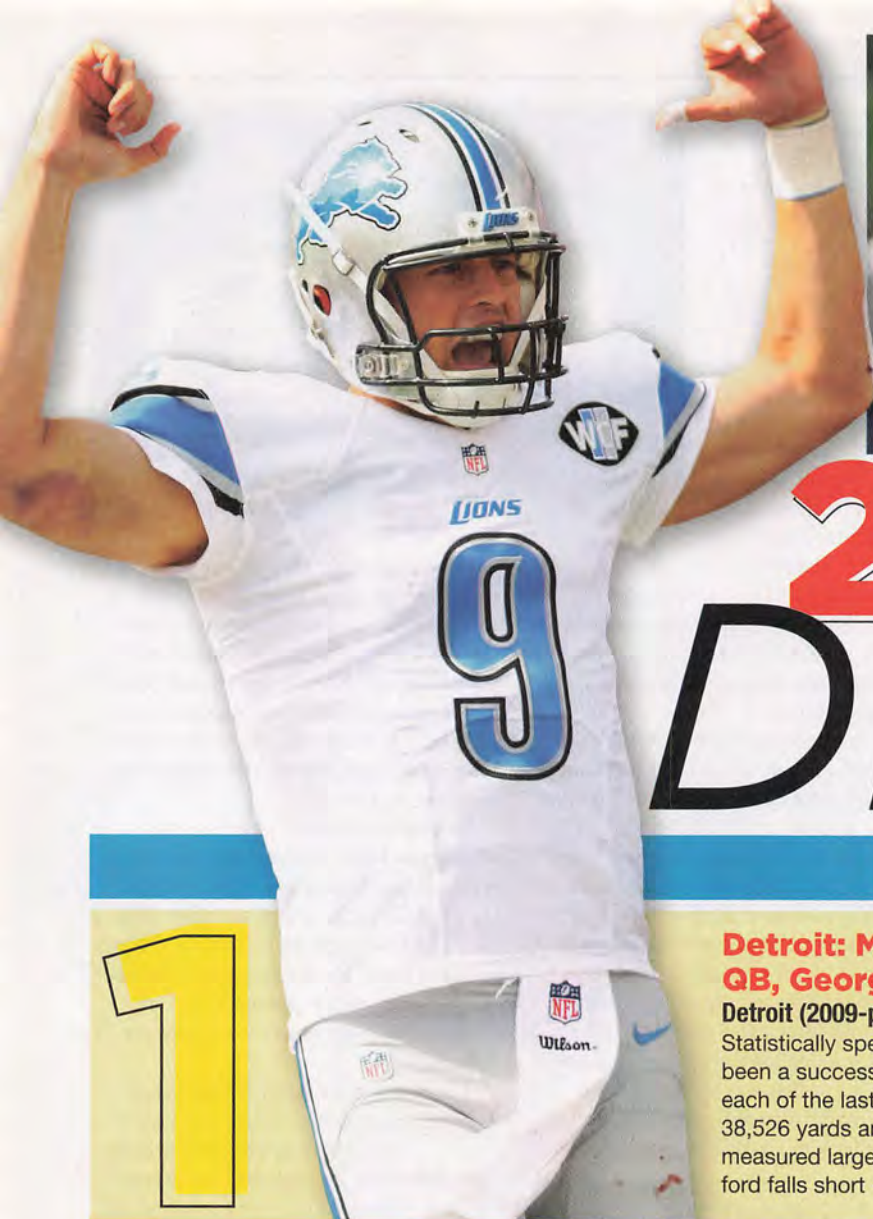
"Dexter," Natalie says, "would have thought that was fantastic."

"I think I played 20 percent [of offensive snaps]. I would love for that number to jump even higher." — Taysom Hill

season, he was making special teams tackles in the NFL. He had no idea what to expect in Year 2, but the Saints had big plans. Hill would need an extra playbook. "A very pleasant surprise," he says.

So now Hill is in a situation unique in all of the NFL: He plays special teams with furious abandon, as if he's totally expendable, and he studies the quarterback position with extreme care, as if he's irreplaceable. He's the bull in the china shop on one play, and he's the fine china on another.





Mark Sanchez

2009 Draft

REVISITED

Detroit: Matthew Stafford QB, Georgia

Detroit (2009-present)

Statistically speaking, Stafford's 10-year career in Detroit has been a success. He's been durable (he's started all 16 games in each of the last eight seasons) and productive (he's thrown for 38,526 yards and 237 touchdowns). But fairly or not, QBs are measured largely by wins and losses, and it is there that Stafford falls short — 66–75 as a starter, and 0–3 in the playoffs.

2. St. Louis: Jason Smith, OT, Baylor

St. Louis (2009–11), N.Y. Jets (2012)

Baylor's first first-round pick in more than a decade, Smith parlayed an impressive Scouting Combine performance into a six-year, \$61 million contract and expectations that he would anchor the left side of the Rams line for years to come. A severe concussion late in his rookie season put an end to those plans. He lost his starting job in his second season and was out of the league by the end of the 2013 preseason.

3. Kansas City: Tyson Jackson, DE, LSU

Kansas City (2009–13), Atlanta (2014–16)

Drafted as a 3–4 defensive end, Jackson never developed into the consistent pass-rushing threat the Chiefs envisioned, posting only nine total sacks in five seasons in K.C. He then had three nondescript seasons in Atlanta, recording one tackle in the Falcons' Super Bowl loss to New England — Jackson's last game in pro football.

4. Seattle: Aaron Curry, LB, Wake Forest

Seattle (2009–11), Oakland (2011–12)

Projected to be the best linebacker in the 2009 NFL Draft, Curry was a first-team All-American and Butkus Award winner at Wake Forest who looked like one of the safer picks at the

top of the board. But like many other members of this class, he's remembered as a bust. He would start only 39 games for his NFL career.

5. N.Y. Jets: Mark Sanchez, QB, USC

N.Y. Jets (2009–13), Philadelphia (2014–15), Dallas (2016), Chicago (2017), Washington (2018)

Best known today for the "Butt Fumble" of Internet infamy, Sanchez at one time was a playoff wunderkind and matinee idol who led the Jets to two unexpected AFC Championship Game appearances in his first two seasons in the league. That early success turned out to be fool's gold, and Sanchez turned out to be little more than a journeyman, with an 86-to-89 TD-to-interception ratio for his career.

6. Cincinnati: Andre Smith, OT, Alabama

Cincinnati (2009–15), Minnesota (2016), Cincinnati (2017), Arizona (2018), Cincinnati (2018-present)

Smith's flabby 40-yard dash at the Combine threatened to overshadow a legendary career as a decorated tackle for Alabama that had some calling him the best prospect at the position since Orlando Pace. Smith overcame the shame to forge a solid career as a reliable O-line bookend — although much of that career has come in the relative anonymity of Cincinnati.

7. Oakland: Darrius Heyward-Bey, WR, Maryland
Oakland (2009-12), Indianapolis (2013), Pittsburgh
(2014-present)

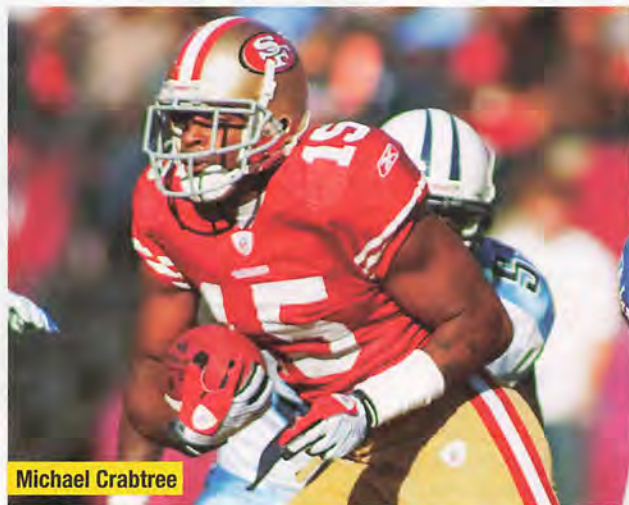
Heyward-Bey was tagged as a reach from the moment the Raiders selected him at No. 7, and the “bust” label was soon to follow. A decade later, he’s still in the league, but while he’s continued to collect paychecks, the label has stuck. Heyward-Bey has 202 career receptions and 16 touchdowns in 144 games.

8. Jacksonville: Eugene Monroe, OT, Virginia
Jacksonville (2009-13), Baltimore (2013-15)

A one-time backup to D’Brickashaw Ferguson at Virginia, Monroe entered the league facing similar expectations, and he did become a reliable bookend for five seasons in Jacksonville. After starting 90 games, Monroe retired at age 29, citing concern for his health due to repeated head trauma. He has since become an outspoken advocate for medical cannabis.

9. Green Bay: B.J. Raji, DT, Boston College
Green Bay (2009-15)

A squat but agile nose tackle, Raji became one of the more popular Packers during his tenure in Green Bay, due in part to a memorable playoff pick-6 against the Bears in the NFC Championship Game on Jan. 23, 2011, a decisive moment in the Packers’ march to a Super Bowl win. After missing the 2014 season with a torn biceps, Raji came back for the 2015 season before retiring (though he called it a “hiatus”).



Michael Crabtree

10. San Francisco: Michael Crabtree, WR, Texas Tech

San Francisco (2009-14), Oakland (2015-17), Baltimore (2018)

Two stunningly productive seasons at Texas Tech, during which he set multiple NCAA records, led Crabtree to declare for the 2009 NFL Draft. After a holdout-shortened rookie season, Crabtree has forged a career as an effective possession receiver for three teams, catching 80-plus passes three times.

11. Buffalo: Aaron Maybin, DE, Penn State
Buffalo (2009-10), N.Y. Jets (2011-12)

After two disappointing seasons for Buffalo that included zero sacks, Maybin was released and signed with the Jets. His first two sacks in green were strip sacks, but he was unable to maintain that level of play and was released in 2012. After a brief stint in Canada, Maybin retired from football and has since become a successful artist.



Knowshon Moreno

12. Denver: Knowshon Moreno, RB, Georgia
Denver (2009-13), Miami (2014)

The top running back prospect in this draft class, Moreno never quite lived up to the promise of his two outstanding seasons at Georgia. After an All-Rookie season in which he rushed for 947 yards, Moreno’s production languished until a 1,038-yard comeback campaign in 2013, a year in which he became the first Bronco with 1,000 rushing yards and 500 receiving yards in the same season. The breakout earned him a one-year deal with the Dolphins, but injuries destroyed his sole season in Miami, and he’s been out of football since.

13. Washington: Brian Orakpo, DE, Texas
Washington (2009-14), Tennessee (2015-18)

Despite some suspicions that Orakpo was more physical specimen than productive player, the Redskins made him their top pick, and he rewarded their faith by becoming a reliable, effective pro, earning Pro Bowl trips in 2009, 2010 and 2013. In 2015, he signed a four-year deal with Tennessee and made another Pro Bowl in 2016. He retired following the 2018 season.

14. New Orleans: Malcolm Jenkins, CB, Ohio State
New Orleans (2009-13), Philadelphia (2014-present)

The 2008 Jim Thorpe Award winner, Jenkins saw his stock fall a bit with a slow 40 time at the Combine, but he has largely lived up to his college promise, contributing to two Super Bowl-winning teams and earning a pair of Pro Bowl trips. Jenkins has intercepted at least one pass in nine of his 10 seasons and has scored seven defensive touchdowns, including a 99-yard interception return in 2015.

15. Houston: Brian Cushing, LB, USC
Houston (2009-17)

Cushing’s career was tainted by allegations of PED use, including multiple suspensions following positive tests (four games in 2010, 10 games in 2017), but he is the leading tackler in Texans history with 664 despite the suspensions, as well as injuries that cost him a couple dozen more games.

16. San Diego: Larry English, DE, Northern Illinois
San Diego (2009-13), Tampa Bay (2014)

English had as many sacks as a sophomore at Northern Illinois as did in his entire NFL career (12). After a promising rookie season, English suffered a foot fracture in training camp before the 2010 season and never again approached the status of reliable contributor.

**17. Tampa Bay: Josh Freeman, QB, Kansas State
Tampa Bay (2009-13), Minnesota (2013), Indianapolis (2015)**

Freeman seemed to possess the physical gifts — size, arm strength — to justify a first-round pick. And he showed flashes of competence during the first four seasons of his pro career, posting a career-best 95.9 passer rating in 2010 and passing for better than 3,400 yards in three straight seasons. A slow start in 2013 doomed him in Tampa, though, and, after a one-game stint with Indianapolis in 2015, he retired with a 25–36 record as a starter and a TD-to-interception ratio of 81-to-68.



18. Denver: Robert Ayers, DE, Tennessee

Denver (2009-13), N.Y. Giants (2014-15), Tampa Bay (2016-17)

Ayers was a full-time starter for only one season in college, and he never could establish a foothold as a full-time player at the next level, either, starting 59 games in nine NFL seasons. His best season came in 2015 with the Giants, when he posted a career-high nine sacks in 12 games.

**19. Philadelphia: Jeremy Maclin, WR, Missouri
Philadelphia (2009-14), Kansas City (2015-16), Baltimore (2017)**

Never a superstar at the NFL level, Maclin was nonetheless a more-than-serviceable receiver for Philadelphia and Kansas City, amassing a career-best 1,318 receiving yards with 10 TDs for the Eagles in 2014 and catching a career-high 87 passes for the Chiefs in 2015. Released by the Ravens in March 2018 after one nondescript season, Maclin retired in March.

**20. Detroit: Brandon Pettigrew, TE, Oklahoma State
Detroit (2009-16)**

The sole tight end taken in the first round, Pettigrew provided Matthew Stafford with an attractive, sizable target for a few seasons before declining production and a torn ACL ushered him out of the league. His peak came in 2011, when he posted career highs in catches (83), yards (777) and touchdowns (five) for a Lions team that set a franchise scoring record.

**21. Cleveland: Alex Mack, C, California
Cleveland (2009-15), Atlanta (2016-present)**

Mack has proved to be one of the better picks of the first round, becoming one of the league's most reliable players at

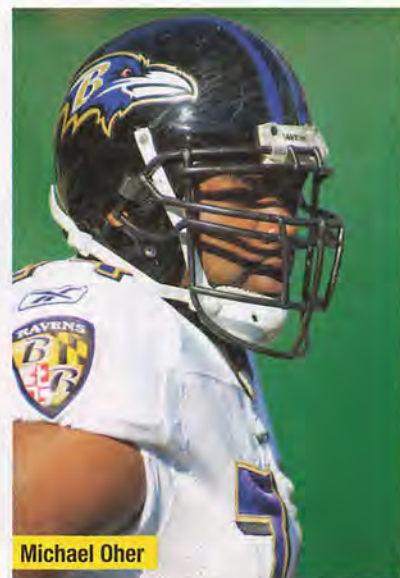
a critical position. He played every offensive snap for Cleveland — even playing through a bout of appendicitis — until a broken leg in 2014 ended his season after Week 6. He signed a free agent deal with Atlanta in 2016 and has made the Pro Bowl in each of his three seasons with the Falcons. For his career, Mack is a six-time Pro Bowler and three-time second-team All-Pro.

**22. Minnesota: Percy Harvin, WR, Florida
Minnesota (2009-12), Seattle (2013-14), N.Y. Jets (2014),
Buffalo (2015-16)**

The electrifying Harvin is one of the few players to have won a state title in high school, a national title in college and a Super Bowl ring in the NFL. Sadly, a combination of injuries, severe migraine headaches and questionable professionalism hampered what could have been a truly stellar career. He finished his NFL tenure with 22 touchdowns receiving, five rushing and five on kick returns.

**23. Baltimore: Michael Oher, OT, Ole Miss
Baltimore (2009-13), Tennessee (2014), Carolina (2015-16)**

Immortalized in print and on celluloid, Oher was never much more than serviceable, spending almost as much time at right tackle as at his namesake “blind side” left tackle spot and never making a Pro Bowl. He did finally live up to some of the hype during Carolina's Super Bowl season of 2015, allowing a career-low four sacks in protecting Cam Newton's — yep — blind side, but injuries essentially ended his career a year later.



**24. Atlanta: Peria Jerry, DT, Ole Miss
Atlanta (2009-13)**

A knee injury early in Jerry's rookie season derailed his career just as it was beginning. One of the more notable busts of this draft, Jerry finished his career having started only 29 games. He's probably best remembered for retiring from football unexpectedly on HBO's “Hard Knocks” series prior to the 2014 season.

Best Pick by Round

Round 2 – LeSean McCoy, RB, Pittsburgh (Eagles)

The reigning Big East Offensive Player of the Year, “Shady” was the fourth running back drafted — behind notable disappointments Knowshon Moreno, Donald Brown and Beanie Wells. Over 10 seasons with the Eagles and Bills, the versatile McCoy has 10,606 yards (on 4.5 ypc) and 69 TDs as a runner, along with 475 catches for 3,616 yards (7.6 ypc) and 15 TDs as a receiver. A six-time Pro Bowler and two-time first-team All-Pro, McCoy led the NFL in rushing in 2013.

Round 3 – Mike Wallace, WR, Ole Miss (Steelers)

Wallace was the Steelers' go-to wideout between the decline of Hines Ward and rise of Antonio Brown. But he has been unable

to establish himself as anything more than a rental for teams with a need for speed, playing for five clubs (Steelers, Dolphins, Vikings, Ravens, Eagles) in 10 years. Wallace has 538 catches for 8,072 yards (15.0 ypc) and 57 TDs in his career.

Round 4 – Glover Quin, DB, New Mexico (Texans)

Underrated as a cornerback, nickel back and safety in Houston during his first four seasons, Quin established himself as a team leader at safety after signing with Detroit in 2013. Quin was the NFL's interceptions leader, a Pro Bowler and second-team All-Pro in 2014. Extremely durable, Quin has played in 159-of-160 career games en route to posting 24 interceptions, 10 forced fumbles and 85 passes defended.

Best Draft: Green Bay Packers

Green Bay's two first-round picks — nose tackle B.J. Raji (No. 9) and edge rusher Clay Matthews III (No. 26) — were both Pro Bowl cornerstones on the Packers' Super Bowl XLV-winning 3-4 defense. Fourth-round O-lineman T.J. Lang (No. 109) earned a Pro Bowl nod in Green Bay and another after leaving for division-rival Detroit, while seventh-round linebacker Brad Jones (No. 218) started games in all six of his seasons in Titletown.

Worst Draft: Arizona Cardinals

It was a bad omen when running back Beanie Wells (the No. 31 overall pick) was carted off the practice field with an ankle injury on the same day he signed his rookie deal. Wells rushed for only 2,471 yards during an injury-plagued career. Defensive end Cody Brown (No. 63) never played a game in the NFL. Safety Rashad Johnson (No. 95) was the standout of a class that spent more time on practice squads and injured reserve than active NFL rosters.

25. Miami: Vontae Davis, CB, Illinois

Miami (2009-11), Indianapolis (2012-17), Buffalo (2018)

A solid career that included two Pro Bowl appearances came to a bizarre and abrupt end when Davis retired at halftime of his first game in a Bills uniform after having removed himself from the game in the first half. That unusual coda shouldn't overshadow a career in which Davis intercepted 22 passes.

26. Green Bay: Clay Matthews, LB, USC

Green Bay (2009-18), L.A. Rams (2019)

Matthews became almost as identifiable with the green and gold as Aaron Rodgers, and like Rodgers, he lasted surprisingly late into the first round before rewarding the Pack with years of productivity. Matthews announced his presence with a "Monday Night Football" strip-and-score of Adrian Peterson early in his rookie season and never looked back. A first-team All-Pro in 2010, Matthews has been to six Pro Bowls and forced a decisive fumble in Super Bowl XLV. He signed with the Rams in the offseason.

27. Indianapolis: Donald Brown, RB, Connecticut

Indianapolis (2009-13), San Diego (2014-15)

After a 2,000-yard junior season at UConn, Brown entered



Clay Matthews

the NFL Draft and was the second running back chosen, but he never became much more than a secondary option in either Indy or San Diego. Brown finished his career with two 100-yard rushing games, with a single-season high of 645 rushing yards (2011).

28. Buffalo: Eric Wood, C, Louisville

Buffalo (2009-17)

Wood was a sturdy and reliable anchor for his nine seasons with the Bills and also a popular member of the Buffalo community. A failed physical (due to a neck injury) following the 2017 season led to his retirement. He has since become a contributing columnist to The Athletic website.



Eric Wood

29. N.Y. Giants: Hakeem Nicks, WR, North Carolina

N.Y. Giants (2009-13), Indianapolis (2014), N.Y. Giants (2015)

Nicks enjoyed some productive seasons in New York but is best remembered for his prolific postseason performance during the Giants' march to a Super Bowl XLVI win. During that 4-0 run, Nicks caught 28 passes for 444 yards and four TDs, grabbing 10 catches for 109 yards in the 21-17 Super Bowl win over New England. He finished his career with 356 catches for 5,081 yards and 31 TDs.

30. Tennessee: Kenny Britt, WR, Rutgers

Tennessee (2009-13), St. Louis/L.A. Rams (2014-16), Cleveland (2017), New England (2017)

Remembered as a bust in Tennessee, Britt enjoyed his best season as a Ram, catching 68 passes for 1,002 yards and five TDs in 2016. Multiple run-ins with the law did little to endear him to fans at any stop.

31. Arizona: Beanie Wells, RB, Ohio State

Arizona (2009-12)

The former OSU sensation was never able to gain a foothold in Phoenix and retired after a torn Achilles suffered during a workout for the Ravens. Since then, Wells has been a radio personality in Columbus and has sought treatment for a brain injury that he blames on football.

32. Pittsburgh: Ziggy Hood, DT, Missouri

Pittsburgh (2009-13), Jacksonville (2014-15), Chicago (2015), Washington (2016-18), Miami (2018-present)

The well-traveled Hood had his best seasons in Pittsburgh, where he posted 11.5 sacks and four fumble recoveries in five seasons.

Round 5 – Thomas Morstead, P, SMU (Saints)

In the fifth round, both the Saints and Bengals found their punter for the next decade, with Morstead landing in the Big Easy and local Cincinnati product Kevin Huber staying in the Queen City. Of the two, Morstead has had the better career, enjoying a second-team All-Pro season in 2012.

Round 6 – Jason McCourty, CB, Rutgers (Titans)

The less heralded of the McCourty identical twins — brother, Devin, was a first-round pick in 2010 — Jason was not invited to the NFL Draft Combine. But McCourty opened eyes with his speed, running a 4.30 in the 40-yard dash at Rutgers Pro Day. After eight productive years in Tennessee and one sea-

son in Cleveland, Jason was reunited with his brother in New England in 2018.

Round 7 – Julian Edelman, WR, Kent State (Patriots)

A three-year starter at QB for Kent State, Edelman has done it all during his career in New England — as a special teams ace, spot-starting slot receiver and emergency defensive back early on, before becoming the heir apparent to Wes Welker and an iconic three-time Super Bowl champion (and one-time Super Bowl MVP). Edelman's miraculous, tipped, diving, shoestring catch on the game-tying drive of New England's 25-point comeback in Super Bowl LI is one of the most memorable plays of the Brady-Belichick era.

2019 Draft Recap



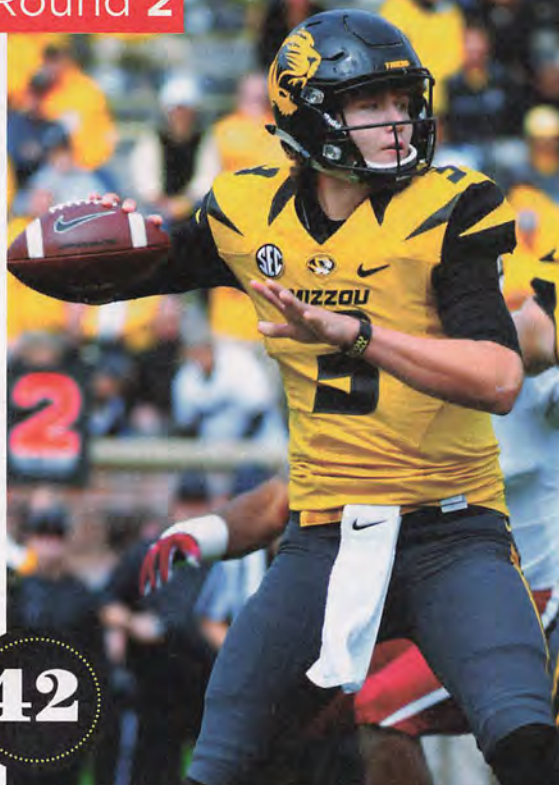
Round 1

1

1. Cardinals	Kyler Murray	QB	Oklahoma
2. 49ers	Nick Bosa	DE	Ohio State
3. Jets	Quinnen Williams	DT	Alabama
4. Raiders	Clelin Ferrell	DE	Clemson
5. Buccaneers	Devin White	LB	LSU
6. Giants	Daniel Jones	QB	Duke
7. Jaguars	Josh Allen	LB	Kentucky
8. Lions	T.J. Hockenson	TE	Iowa
9. Bills	Ed Oliver	DT	Houston
10. Steelers	Devin Bush	LB	Michigan
11. Bengals	Jonah Williams	OT	Alabama
12. Packers	Rashan Gary	DE	Michigan
13. Dolphins	Christian Wilkins	DT	Clemson
14. Falcons	Chris Lindstrom	OG	Boston College
15. Redskins	Dwayne Haskins	QB	Ohio State
16. Panthers	Brian Burns	LB	Florida State
17. Giants	Dexter Lawrence	DT	Clemson
18. Vikings	Garrett Bradbury	C	NC State
19. Titans	Jeffery Simmons	DT	Mississippi State
20. Broncos	Noah Fant	TE	Iowa
21. Packers	Darnell Savage Jr.	S	Maryland
22. Eagles	Andre Dillard	OT	Washington State
23. Texans	Tytus Howard	OT	Alabama State
24. Raiders	Josh Jacobs	RB	Alabama
25. Ravens	Marquise Brown	WR	Oklahoma
26. Redskins	Montez Sweat	DE	Mississippi State
27. Raiders	Johnathan Abram	S	Mississippi State
28. Chargers	Jerry Tillery	DT	Notre Dame
29. Seahawks	L.J. Collier	DE	TCU
30. Giants	Deandre Baker	CB	Georgia
31. Falcons	Kaleb McGary	OT	Washington
32. Patriots	N'Keal Harry	WR	Arizona State

33. Cardinals	Byron Murphy	CB	Washington
34. Colts	Rock Ya-Sin	CB	Temple
35. Jaguars	Jawaan Taylor	OT	Florida
36. 49ers	Deebo Samuel	WR	South Carolina
37. Panthers	Greg Little	OT	Ole Miss
38. Bills	Cody Ford	OT	Oklahoma
39. Buccaneers	Sean Murphy-Bunting	CB	Central Michigan
40. Raiders	Trayvon Mullen	CB	Clemson
41. Broncos	Dalton Risner	OT	Kansas State
42. Broncos	Drew Lock	QB	Missouri
43. Lions	Jahlani Tavai	LB	Hawaii
44. Packers	Elgton Jenkins	C	Mississippi State
45. Patriots	Joejuan Williams	CB	Vanderbilt
46. Browns	Greedy Williams	CB	LSU
47. Seahawks	Marquise Blair	S	Utah
48. Saints	Erik McCoy	C	Texas A&M
49. Colts	Ben Banogu	LB	TCU
50. Vikings	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	Alabama
51. Titans	A.J. Brown	WR	Ole Miss
52. Bengals	Drew Sample	TE	Washington
53. Eagles	Miles Sanders	RB	Penn State
54. Texans	Lonnie Johnson Jr.	CB	Kentucky
55. Texans	Max Scharping	OT	Northern Illinois
56. Chiefs	Mecole Hardman	WR	Georgia
57. Eagles	JJ Arcega-Whiteside	WR	Stanford
58. Cowboys	Trysten Hill	DT	UCF
59. Colts	Parris Campbell	WR	Ohio State
60. Chargers	Nasir Adderley	S	Delaware
61. Rams	Taylor Rapp	S	Washington
62. Cardinals	Andy Isabella	WR	UMass
63. Chiefs	Juan Thornhill	S	Virginia
64. Seahawks	D.K. Metcalf	WR	Ole Miss

Round 2

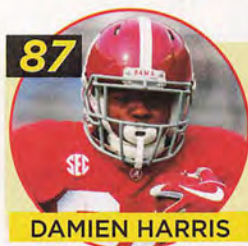


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Murray: Butler; Tim Umphrey; Lock, CGJ, Harris: Harrison McClary; Winovich: Layne Murdoch Sr.

65. Cardinals	Zach Allen	DE	Boston College
66. Steelers	Diontae Johnson	WR	Toledo
67. 49ers	Jalen Hurd	WR	Baylor
68. Jets	Jachai Polite	LB	Florida
69. Jaguars	Josh Oliver	TE	San Jose State
70. L.A. Rams	Darrell Henderson	RB	Memphis
71. Broncos	Dre'mont Jones	DT	Ohio State
72. Bengals	Germaine Pratt	LB	NC State
73. Bears	David Montgomery	RB	Iowa State
74. Bills	Devin Singletary	RB	Florida Atlantic
75. Packers	Jace Sternberger	TE	Texas A&M
76. Redskins	Terry McLaurin	WR	Ohio State
77. Patriots	Chase Winovich	DE	Michigan
78. Dolphins	Michael Deiter	OG	Wisconsin
79. Rams	David Long	CB	Michigan
80. Browns	Sione Takitaki	LB	BYU
81. Lions	Will Harris	S	Boston College
82. Titans	Nate Davis	OG	Charlotte
83. Steelers	Justin Layne	CB	Michigan State
84. Chiefs	Khalen Saunders	DT	Western Illinois
85. Ravens	Jaylon Ferguson	DE	Louisiana Tech
86. Texans	Kahale Warring	TE	San Diego State
87. Patriots	Damien Harris	RB	Alabama
88. Seahawks	Cody Barton	LB	Utah
89. Colts	Bobby Okereke	LB	Stanford
90. Cowboys	Connor McGovern	OG	Penn State
91. Chargers	Trey Pipkins	OT	Sioux Falls
92. Jets	Chuma Edoga	OT	USC
93. Ravens	Miles Boykin	WR	Notre Dame
94. Buccaneers	Jamel Dean	CB	Auburn
95. Giants	Oshane Ximines	DE	Old Dominion
96. Bills	Dawson Knox	TE	Ole Miss
97. L.A. Rams	Bobby Evans	OT	Oklahoma
98. Jaguars	Quincy Williams	LB	Murray State
99. Buccaneers	Mike Edwards	S	Kentucky
100. Panthers	Will Grier	QB	West Virginia
101. Patriots	Yodny Cajuste	OT	West Virginia
102. Vikings	Alexander Mattison	RB	Boise State

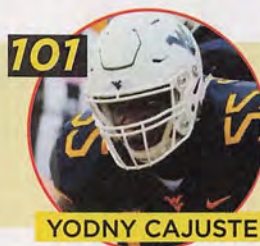
Round 3



DAMIEN HARRIS



CONNOR MCGOVERN



YODNY CAJUSTE



HAKEEM BUTLER

Round 4



103. Cardinals	Hakeem Butler	WR	Iowa State
104. Bengals	Ryan Finley	QB	NC State
105. Saints	Chauncey Gardner-Johnson	S	Florida
106. Raiders	Maxx Crosby	DE	Eastern Michigan
107. Buccaneers	Anthony Nelson	DE	Iowa
108. Giants	Julian Love	CB	Notre Dame
109. Colts	Khari Willis	S	Michigan State
110. 49ers	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	Utah
111. Falcons	Kendall Sheffield	CB	Ohio State
112. Redskins	Bryce Love	RB	Stanford
113. Ravens	Justice Hill	RB	Oklahoma State
114. Vikings	Dru Samia	OG	Oklahoma
115. Panthers	Christian Miller	LB	Alabama
116. Titans	Amani Hooker	S	Iowa
117. Lions	Austin Bryant	DE	Clemson
118. Patriots	Hjalte Froholdt	OG	Arkansas
119. Browns	Sheldrick Redwine	S	Miami (Fla.)
120. Seahawks	Gary Jennings Jr.	WR	West Virginia
121. Jets	Trevon Wesco	TE	West Virginia
122. Steelers	Benny Snell Jr.	RB	Kentucky

2019 Draft Recap

123. Ravens	Ben Powers	OG	Oklahoma
124. Seahawks	Phil Haynes	OG	Wake Forest
125. Bengals	Renell Wren	DT	Arizona State
126. Bears	Riley Ridley	WR	Georgia
127. Ravens	Iman Marshall	CB	USC
128. Cowboys	Tony Pollard	RB	Memphis
129. Raiders	Isaiah Johnson	CB	Houston
130. Chargers	Drue Tranquill	LB	Notre Dame
131. Redskins	Wes Martin	OG	Indiana
132. Seahawks	Ugochukwu Amadi	S	Oregon
133. Patriots	Jarrett Stidham	QB	Auburn
134. Rams	Greg Gaines	DT	Washington
135. Falcons	John Cominsky	DE	Charleston (W.Va.)
136. Bengals	Michael Jordan	OG	Ohio State
137. Raiders	Foster Moreau	TE	LSU
138. Eagles	Shareef Miller	DE	Penn State



Round 4



Round 5

139. Cardinals	Deionte Thompson	S	Alabama
140. Jaguars	Ryquell Armstead	RB	Temple
141. Steelers	Zach Gentry	TE	Michigan
142. Seahawks	Ben Burr-Kirven	LB	Washington
143. Giants	Ryan Connelly	LB	Wisconsin
144. Colts	Marvell Tell III	S	USC
145. Buccaneers	Matt Gay	K	Utah
146. Lions	Amani Oluwariye	CB	Penn State
147. Bills	Vosean Joseph	LB	Florida
148. 49ers	Dre Greenlaw	LB	Arkansas
149. Raiders	Hunter Renfrow	WR	Clemson
150. Packers	Kingsley Keke	DT	Texas A&M
151. Dolphins	Andrew Van Ginkel	LB	Wisconsin
152. Falcons	Qadree Ollison	RB	Pittsburgh
153. Redskins	Ross Pierschbacher	OG	Alabama
154. Panthers	Jordan Scarlett	RB	Florida
155. Browns	Mack Wilson	LB	Alabama
156. Broncos	Justin Hollins	LB	Oregon
157. Jets	Blake Cashman	LB	Minnesota
158. Cowboys	Michael Jackson	CB	Miami (Fla.)
159. Patriots	Byron Cowart	DT	Maryland
160. Ravens	Daylon Mack	DT	Texas A&M
161. Texans	Charles Omenihu	DE	Texas
162. Vikings	Cameron Smith	LB	USC
163. Patriots	Jake Bailey	P	Stanford
164. Colts	E.J. Speed	LB	Tarleton State
165. Cowboys	Joe Jackson	DE	Miami (Fla.)
166. Chargers	Easton Stick	QB	North Dakota State
167. Eagles	Clayton Thorson	QB	Northwestern
168. Titans	D'Andre Walker	LB	Georgia
169. Rams	David Edwards	OT	Wisconsin
170. Browns	Austin Seibert	K	Oklahoma
171. Giants	Darius Slayton	WR	Auburn
172. Falcons	Jordan Miller	CB	Washington
173. Redskins	Cole Holcomb	LB	North Carolina

174. Cardinals	KeeSean Johnson	WR	Fresno State
175. Steelers	Sutton Smith	DE	Northern Illinois
176. 49ers	Kaden Smith	TE	Stanford
177. Saints	Saquan Hampton	S	Rutgers
178. Jaguars	Gardner Minshew	QB	Washington State
179. Cardinals	Lamont Gaillard	C	Georgia
180. Giants	Corey Ballentine	CB	Washburn
181. Bills	Jaquan Johnson	CB	Miami (Fla.)
182. Bengals	Trayveon Williams	RB	Texas A&M
183. 49ers	Justin Skule	OT	Vanderbilt
184. Lions	Travis Fulgham	WR	Old Dominion
185. Packers	Ka'dar Hollman	CB	Toledo
186. Lions	Ty Johnson	RB	Maryland



Round 6

187. Broncos **Juwann Winfree**
 188. Titans **David Long Jr.**
 189. Browns **Drew Forbes**
 190. Vikings **Armon Watts**
 191. Vikings **Marcus Epps**
 192. Steelers **Isaiah Buggs**
 193. Vikings **Oli Udoh**
 194. Packers **Dexter Williams**
 195. Texans **Xavier Crawford**
 196. Jets **Blessuan Austin**
 197. Ravens **Trace McSorley**
 198. 49ers **Tim Harris**
 199. Colts **Gerri Green**
 200. Chargers **Emeke Egbule**
 201. Chiefs **Rashad Fenton**
 202. Dolphins **Isaiah Prince**
 203. Falcons **Marcus Green**
 204. Seahawks **Travis Homer**
 205. Bears **Duke Shelley**
 206. Redskins **Kelvin Harmon**
 207. Steelers **Ulysees Gilbert III**
 208. Buccaneers **Scott Miller**
 209. Seahawks **Demarcus Christmas**
 210. Bengals **Dashaun Davis**
 211. Bengals **Rodney Anderson**
 212. Panthers **Dennis Daley**
 213. Cowboys **Donovan Wilson**
 214. Chiefs **Darwin Thompson**

WR Colorado
 LB West Virginia
 OT SE Missouri State
 DT Arkansas
 S Wyoming
 DT Alabama
 OT Elon
 RB Notre Dame
 CB Central Michigan
 CB Rutgers
 QB Penn State
 CB Virginia
 DE Mississippi State
 LB Houston
 CB South Carolina
 OT Ohio State
 WR Louisiana-Monroe
 RB Miami (Fla.)
 CB Kansas State
 WR NC State
 LB Akron
 WR Bowling Green
 DT Florida State
 LB Auburn
 RB Oklahoma
 OT South Carolina
 S Texas A&M
 RB Utah State

Round 6



197

Round 7



217

215. Buccaneers **Terry Beckner**
 216. Chiefs **Nick Allegretti**
 217. Vikings **Kris Boyd**
 218. Cowboys **Mike Weber**
 219. Steelers **Derwin Gray**
 220. Texans **Cullen Gillaspia**
 221. Browns **Donnie Lewis Jr.**
 222. Bears **Kerrith Whyte Jr.**
 223. Bengals **Jordan Brown**
 224. Lions **Isaac Nauta**
 225. Bills **Darryl Johnson Jr.**
 226. Packers **Ty Summers**
 227. Redskins **Jimmy Moreland**
 228. Bills **Tommy Sweeney**
 229. Lions **P.J. Johnson**
 230. Raiders **Quinton Bell**
 231. Saints **Alizé Mack**
 232. Giants **George Asafo-Adjei**
 233. Dolphins **Chandler Cox**
 234. Dolphins **Myles Gaskin**
 235. Jaguars **Dontavius Russell**
 236. Seahawks **John Ursua**
 237. Panthers **Terry Godwin**
 238. Bears **Stephen Denmark**
 239. Vikings **Dillon Mitchell**
 240. Colts **Jackson Barton**
 241. Cowboys **Jalen Jelks**
 242. Chargers **Cortez Broughton**
 243. Rams **Nick Scott**
 244. Saints **Kaden Elliss**
 245. Giants **Chris Slayton**
 246. Colts **Javon Patterson**
 247. Vikings **Olabisi Johnson**
 248. Cardinals **Joshua Miles**
 249. Cardinals **Michael Dogbe**
 250. Vikings **Austin Cutting**
 251. Rams **Dakota Allen**
 252. Patriots **Ken Webster**
 253. Redskins **Jordan Brailford**
 254. Cardinals **Caleb Wilson**

DT Missouri
 G Illinois
 CB Texas
 RB Ohio State
 OT Maryland
 RB Texas A&M
 CB Tulane
 RB Florida Atlantic
 CB South Dakota State
 TE Georgia
 DE North Carolina A&T
 LB TCU
 CB James Madison
 TE Boston College
 DE Arizona
 DE Prairie View A&M
 TE Notre Dame
 OT Kentucky
 RB Auburn
 RB Washington
 DT Auburn
 WR Hawaii
 WR Georgia
 CB Valdosta State
 WR Oregon
 OT Utah
 DE Oregon
 DT Cincinnati
 S Penn State
 LB Idaho
 DT Syracuse
 C Ole Miss
 WR Colorado State
 OT Morgan State
 DE Temple
 LS Air Force
 LB Texas Tech
 CB Ole Miss
 DE Oklahoma State
 TE UCLA

KLIFF GETS HIS MAN



Klyer Murray was once the quarterback who got away.

The former five-star prospect turned Heisman Trophy winner was recruited by Kliff Kingsbury at both Texas A&M and Texas Tech but wound up spurning the new Arizona Cardinals head coach out of high school and as a college transfer. There were never any hard feelings, however, and the two remained close even as they competed in the same conference.

"I'd take him with the first pick in the draft if I could," said Kingsbury — back in October of 2018 when he was still the Red Raiders head coach preparing to face Murray's Oklahoma squad in Big 12 play. "I know he's signed up to play baseball, but he is a dominant football player and I would take him with the first pick."

Funny how things work out.

Months upon months of rumors turned out to be true as the Cardinals did indeed take Murray with the No. 1 overall pick in April and, in doing so, finally united the Air Raid-loving head coach with one of the most dynamic signal callers ever to emerge from the college ranks.

"As a player, you want to have a guy who knows what you do, respects your game and is behind you at all costs," Murray said during his introductory news conference after the draft. "[Kingsbury] was always that guy for me."

Now the pair's mission is simple: breathe life into an Arizona squad that had the worst scoring offense in the league last season. The franchise has gone all-in with the Kingsbury-led revamp on that side of the ball. That much was evident in the draft.



Dual Threat

Murray's selection also provided a bit of history considering he was also taken ninth overall by the Oakland Athletics last summer, becoming the first person ever to be selected in the first round of both the Major League Baseball and NFL drafts. He teamed up with current Cleveland Browns QB Baker Mayfield to make it back-to-back No. 1 overall picks for Oklahoma as well, as the Sooners tied USC for the most selections atop the draft since the AFL/NFL merger in 1966 (five).

In addition to the quarterback of the future, the Cardinals added a trio of receivers (Andy Isabella, Hakeem Butler and KeeSean Johnson) and still sport future Hall of Famer Larry Fitzgerald, dangerous slot man Christian Kirk, and do-everything back David Johnson, among others. Even the team's Mr. Irrelevant pick (No. 254 overall), Caleb Wilson, led college football's tight ends in receiving yards last season.

While it remains to be seen just how everything will play out down in the desert, Arizona certainly won't be boring to watch in 2019.

SUCCESSION PLAN

While there may have been only 11 quarterbacks selected this year, this draft sets up a host of fascinating battles that are bound to play out over the course of the upcoming season between veterans eager to keep their jobs and rising rookies hoping to get their chance to shine.

Here's a look at four sure-fire succession plans under center and four more that could happen down the road:



GIANTS

Incumbent: Eli Manning
Draft Pick: Daniel Jones

The Duke quarterback was perhaps the most controversial selection of the draft at No. 6 overall despite a less-than-stellar résumé. Jones does have prototypical size for the position and the blessings of noted QB

guru David Cutcliffe, but Giants GM Dave Gettleman concedes that Jones could sit behind Manning for up to three years. The fans in New York will have none of that if the Super Bowl winner's decline continues.

REDSKINS

Incumbent: Case Keenum/Colt McCoy

Draft Pick: Dwayne Haskins

The Ohio State quarterback grew up not too far from FedEx Field and has a chance to be the first of the rookies to start in the league. While he may be disappointed in falling to No. 15 overall, his selection said all that needed to be said about the potential return of Alex Smith from that devastating leg injury. McCoy and Keenum are good bets to start at the beginning of the year before it's Haskins' time to shine.

BRONCOS

Incumbent:

Joe Flacco

Draft Pick:

Drew Lock

GM John Elway gushes about Lock's arm and ability to throw it all over the field, but he wisely waited until the second round to grab the former Missouri star. Flacco is no longer an elite QB but will be the starter in 2019 for a team trying to win now before eventually turning it over to the youngster with an eye toward the future.



DOLPHINS

Incumbent: Ryan Fitzpatrick

Newcomer: Josh Rosen

Miami was eyeing the 2020 crop of college quarterbacks but couldn't pass up the opportunity to make the rebuild a little quicker by trading for Rosen in the middle of the 2019 draft. The team gets last year's No. 10 overall pick for just pennies on the dollar and should quickly find out if he's the franchise guy the Dolphins have been searching for since Dan Marino.



PATRIOTS

Incumbent: Tom Brady

Draft Pick: Jarrett Stidham

Nobody in Foxborough or beyond is suggesting that Stidham is going to wrestle the starting job from the greatest QB in NFL history, but his selection in the fourth round did represent a peek into what life might be like in New England without the soon-to-be 42-year-old Brady. The Auburn product has a terrific arm and will benefit immensely from a better offensive system and New England's coaching staff.

BENGALS

Incumbent: Andy Dalton

Draft Pick: Ryan Finley

There was plenty of clamoring by Cincinnati fans to draft Dwayne Haskins in the first round, but the Bengals waited until later to get the QB their new coaching staff wanted. Finley has the size you're looking for at the position and should have an easier transition than most from the college game to the pros. He may not be the guy under center this season for head coach Zac Taylor, but he could be in the future.

CHARGERS

Incumbent: Philip Rivers

Draft Pick: Easton Stick

An icon in powder blue, Rivers will play for however long he wants. At some point, though, the time will come for the 37-year-old to trade his current starting 11 for the one he has back home. Stick was one of the most successful FCS quarterbacks ever and will have a shot to be the player with the difficult task of replacing Rivers.

PANTHERS

Incumbent: Cam Newton

Draft Pick: Will Grier

Newton's health is going to be a concern for the foreseeable future given his injury history and style of play. While Newton is the unquestioned face of the franchise, it was completely understandable that the team spent a top-100 pick on the talented West Virginia product. Grier gives the Panthers a high-level backup for the next several years at worst and a QB with upside to hedge against Newton's contract expiring in two seasons at best.



Seeing Double

In a coincidence to rule all coincidences, the No. 7 overall pick in both the 2018 and 2019 drafts was named Josh Allen. Buffalo took the quarterback version out of Wyoming last year, while Jacksonville turned in a card with the same name to land the Kentucky linebacker this year. While it's strange enough to see two players with the same name, to have them drafted with the exact same pick in back-to-back years is outright bizarre.

Sadly, the Bills do not play the Jaguars this season, but there's a chance we could have Josh Allen-on-Josh Allen crime as soon as 2020.



Wheelin' & Dealin'

The 2019 NFL Draft set a record with a whopping 39 trades over the three days, including 15 in the first two rounds alone.

The catalyst? The big boys up front. Eight trades in the first two days of the draft resulted in teams moving up to take offensive linemen. Compare that to just two teams ponying up extra compensation to move up and take a quarterback during all seven rounds.



All in the Family

You want to talk about genes? Look no further than the first night of the draft, which put them on full display.

Defensive end Nick Bosa became the fourth member of his family to be drafted in the first round when he was taken by the San Francisco 49ers second overall. He joins brother Joey (third overall in 2016 to the Chargers), father John (16th overall to the Dolphins in 1987) and uncle Eric Kumerow (16th overall to the Dolphins in 1988) in the league annals.

Those were not the only family ties to pop up during the draft. Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker Devin Bush Jr. one-upped his famous father, going 10th overall (Bush Sr. was also a first-rounder, No. 26 overall in 1995). The same could be said for wide receiver D.K. Metcalf, who went in the second to Seattle and follows in the footsteps of his father Terrence, who was a third-round selection by Chicago back in 2002.

Speaking of the Bears, fourth-round pick Riley Ridley is the brother of 2018 first-rounder Calvin Ridley of the Atlanta Falcons. All-Pro Antonio Brown may no longer be in the AFC North, but his cousin, Marquise Brown, is now after the Baltimore Ravens took the Oklahoma star No. 25 overall. Steelers fourth-round running back Benny Snell Jr.'s father was also drafted by the Ravens, and his great uncle Matt Snell was the No. 3 overall pick in the 1964 AFL Draft before helping lead the Jets to a win in Super Bowl III.





Christian Wilkins

NO LIONS, BUT TIGERS OH MY

National champion Clemson's defensive line was widely hailed as one of the best ever in the college game, and NFL teams certainly took notice. Three Tigers from the unit were drafted in the first round — Clelin Ferrell No. 4 overall to Oakland, Christian Wilkins No. 13 overall to Miami and Dexter Lawrence No. 17 overall to the New York Giants — the first time in the common draft era that a school has ever had three defensive linemen taken in the first round of the same draft. The fourth starter for the team, Austin Bryant, was drafted 117th overall by the Detroit Lions.



Ed Oliver

Defensive Dominance

NFL offenses have been operating at never-before-seen levels in recent years, making life quite miserable for defensive coordinators around the league. The 2019 draft could help change defensive fortunes, however, as one of the deepest crops of college defenders to emerge in several years was snapped up quickly by just about every franchise in Nashville.

The 18 defensive players taken in the first round tied for the second most since 1967, and four of the top five picks overall came on that side of the ball for the first time since 1997. All

told, a fifth of the top 100 picks were spent on defensive linemen alone, while cornerbacks and linebackers (32 each) were the top two position groups selected overall.

STREAK BUSTED

Two rather notable draft streaks ended in Nashville when no player from either Nebraska or Virginia Tech heard his name called. The Hokies hadn't been shut out since 1993, while the Cornhuskers had produced at least one pick in every draft dating all the way back to 1963, good for the fifth-longest streak in history.

500 CLUB

With six players taken this year, Notre Dame joined intersectional rival USC as the only two schools with 500-plus NFL draft picks. The Trojans have a slight edge over the Irish overall, 506 to 504. Next up on the list is Ohio State with 452 and Oklahoma at 394.

It Just Means More (Draft Picks)

When it comes to the NFL Draft, the SEC clearly stands above all others. The league led all conferences for the 13th year in a row at the draft, setting a new record with 64 players taken through all seven rounds. What's wild is that the SEC West alone had 40 players picked by NFL franchises to tie the Big Ten as a whole for second place.

SEC - 64
Big Ten - 40
Pac-12 - 33
ACC - 28
Big 12 - 26



Josh Jacobs

Tide Tops Again

Nick Saban's NFL factory in Tuscaloosa continues to churn out talent at an unprecedented pace. The Crimson Tide led all schools in 2019 with 10 picks, the third year in a row with double-digit selections. The four programs in the College Football Playoff alone accounted for 12 percent of the entire draft.

Alabama - 10
Ohio State - 9
Oklahoma - 8
Washington - 8
Georgia - 7
Texas A&M - 7
Auburn - 6
Clemson - 6
Notre Dame - 6
Ole Miss - 6
Penn State - 6

Top 50 for 2020

1. Tua Tagovailoa	QB	Alabama
2. Justin Herbert	QB	Oregon
3. Chase Young	DE	Ohio State
4. Jerry Jeudy	WR	Alabama
5. Andrew Thomas	OT	Georgia
6. A.J. Epenesa	DE	Iowa
7. Derrick Brown	DT	Auburn
8. Grant Delpit	S	LSU
9. Trey Adams	OT	Washington
10. Bryce Hall	CB	Virginia
11. Walker Little	OT	Stanford
12. CJ Henderson	CB	Florida
13. Tee Higgins	WR	Clemson
14. Javon Kinlaw	DT	South Carolina
15. Raekwon Davis	DE	Alabama
16. Laviska Shenault Jr.	WR	Colorado
17. Isaiah Simmons	S	Clemson
18. Albert Okwuegbunam	TE	Missouri
19. D'Eriq King	QB	Houston
20. Kenny Willekes	DE	Michigan State
21. Dylan Moses	ILB	Alabama
22. Jake Fromm	QB	Georgia
23. Kristian Fulton	CB	LSU



TUA TAGOVAILOA

34. Najee Harris	RB	Alabama
35. Jalen Reagor	WR	TCU
36. Terrell Lewis	OLB	Alabama
37. Xavier McKinney	S	Alabama
38. Alaric Jackson	OT	Iowa
39. Jacob Eason	QB	Washington
40. Malik Harrison	OLB	Ohio State
41. Yetur Gross-Matos	DE	Penn State
42. J.K. Dobbins	RB	Ohio State
43. CeeDee Lamb	WR	Oklahoma
44. AJ Dillon	RB	Boston College
45. Collin Johnson	WR	Texas
46. Khalid Kareem	DE	Notre Dame
47. Essang Bassey	CB	Wake Forest
48. Nick Coe	DE	Auburn
49. Henry Ruggs III	WR	Alabama
50. Grant Calcaterra	TE	Oklahoma



JAKE FROMM

24. Tarik Black	WR	Michigan
25. Evan Weaver	ILB	California
26. Jonathan Taylor	RB	Wisconsin
27. Tyler Biadasz	C	Wisconsin
28. Travis Etienne	RB	Clemson
29. Jaylon Johnson	CB	Utah
30. Paddy Fisher	ILB	Northwestern
31. Mekhi Becton	OT	Louisville
32. Tommy Kraemer	OG	Notre Dame
33. Paulson Adebo	CB	Stanford



J.K. DOBBINS

Tua: Crimson Tide Photos/UA Athletics; Fromm: Paul Abell; Dobbins, Moses: Harrison McClary; Herbert: Craig Mitchell/derby; Pinckney: Tom DiPace

Top 5 Per Position 2020 Draft

Quarterbacks

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Tua Tagovailoa | Alabama |
| 2. Justin Herbert | Oregon |
| 3. D'Eriq King | Houston |
| 4. Jake Fromm | Georgia |
| 5. Jacob Eason | Washington |

Running Backs

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| 1. Jonathan Taylor | Wisconsin |
| 2. Travis Etienne | Clemson |
| 3. Najee Harris | Alabama |
| 4. J.K. Dobbins | Ohio State |
| 5. AJ Dillon | Boston College |

Wide Receivers

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. Jerry Jeudy | Alabama |
| 2. Tee Higgins | Clemson |
| 3. Laviska Shenault Jr. | Colorado |
| 4. Tarik Black | Michigan |
| 5. Jalen Reagor | TCU |

Tight Ends

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. Albert Okwuegbunam | Missouri |
| 2. Grant Calcaterra | Oklahoma |
| 3. Colby Parkinson | Stanford |
| 4. Jacob Breeland | Oregon |
| 5. Daniel Imaobhobhe | USC |

Centers

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. Tyler Biadasz | Wisconsin |
| 2. T.J. McCoy | Florida |
| 3. Kenny Cooper | Georgia Tech |
| 4. Toa Lobendahn | USC |
| 5. Zach Shackelford | Texas |

Offensive Guards

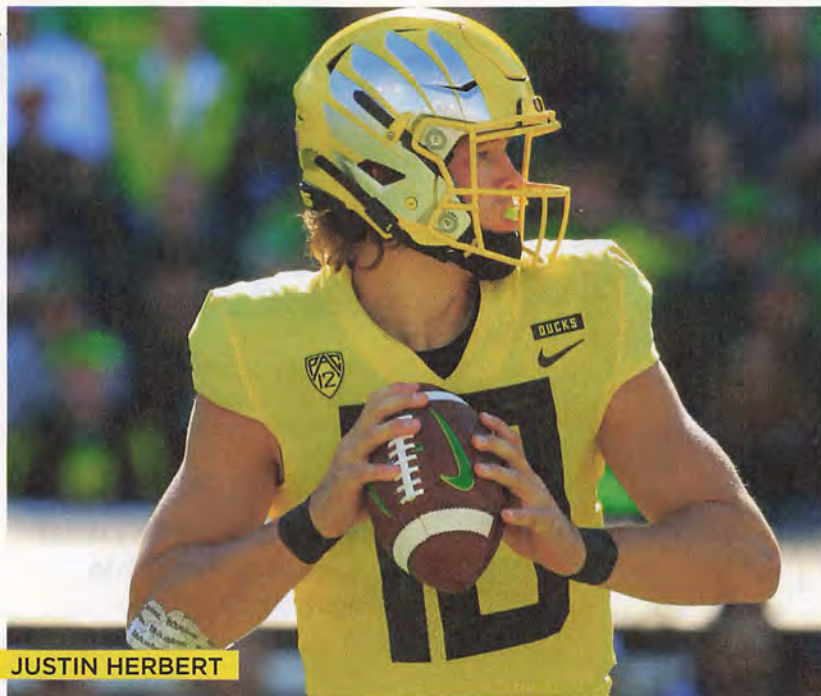
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Tommy Kraemer | Notre Dame |
| 2. Darryl Williams | Mississippi State |
| 3. Ben Bredeson | Michigan |
| 4. Shane Lemieux | Oregon |
| 5. Solomon Kindley | Georgia |

Offensive Tackles

- | | |
|-------------------|------------|
| 1. Andrew Thomas | Georgia |
| 2. Trey Adams | Washington |
| 3. Walker Little | Stanford |
| 4. Mekhi Becton | Louisville |
| 5. Alaric Jackson | Iowa |

Defensive Ends

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Chase Young | Ohio State |
| 2. A.J. Epenesa | Iowa |
| 3. Raekwon Davis | Alabama |
| 4. Kenny Willekes | Michigan State |
| 5. Yetur Gross-Matos | Penn State |



JUSTIN HERBERT

Defensive Tackles

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. Derrick Brown | Auburn |
| 2. Javon Kinlaw | South Carolina |
| 3. Lorenzo Neal | Purdue |
| 4. Rashard Lawrence | LSU |
| 5. LaBryan Ray | Alabama |

Inside Linebackers

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Dylan Moses | Alabama |
| 2. Evan Weaver | California |
| 3. Paddy Fisher | Northwestern |
| 4. Shaq Smith | Clemson |
| 5. Shaquille Quarterman | Miami (Fla.) |

Outside Linebackers

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Terrell Lewis | Alabama |
| 2. Malik Harrison | Ohio State |
| 3. Michael Pinckney | Miami (Fla.) |
| 4. Kenneth Murray | Oklahoma |
| 5. Jabril Cox | North Dakota State |

Cornerbacks

- | | |
|--------------------|----------|
| 1. Bryce Hall | Virginia |
| 2. CJ Henderson | Florida |
| 3. Kristian Fulton | LSU |
| 4. Jaylon Johnson | Utah |
| 5. Paulson Adebo | Stanford |

Free Safeties

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Grant Delpit | LSU |
| 2. Isaiah Simmons | Clemson |
| 3. Richie Grant | UCF |
| 4. David Dowell | Michigan State |
| 5. Jalen Thompson | Washington State |

Strong Safeties

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 1. Xavier McKinney | Alabama |
| 2. J.R. Reed | Georgia |
| 3. Khaleke Hudson | Michigan |
| 4. Denzel Goolsby | Kansas State |
| 5. Jordan Fuller | Ohio State |



DERRICK BROWN



DYLAN MOSES



MICHAEL PINCKNEY

Tailgating

Gear Guide



Rawlings Game Changer Tailgate Chair

Bring this foldable chair and take comfort in knowing it has two cup holders just waiting to secure your pregame libations. \$35 store.philadelphiaeagles.com



JBL Xtreme 2 Speaker

It's waterproof and offers 15 hours of playtime with each charge. Use the Bluetooth or plug-in to listen to music or the play-by-play from Sunday's games. Oh, and the sound will blow you away. \$220 jbl.com



ORCA 27 oz. Chaser

A stainless steel, double-walled, vacuum-sealed body means your drink stays ice cold or piping hot for as long as you need it to. \$40 orcacoolers.com

Whether your team wins or loses, you can still enjoy tailgating this season. Here are the must-have items to make the most of your pregame party.

Goal Zero YETI 400 Lithium Portable Power Station

A quiet power source that can run a 32-inch LCD television for three hours, or long enough to enjoy a game. \$600 goalzero.com

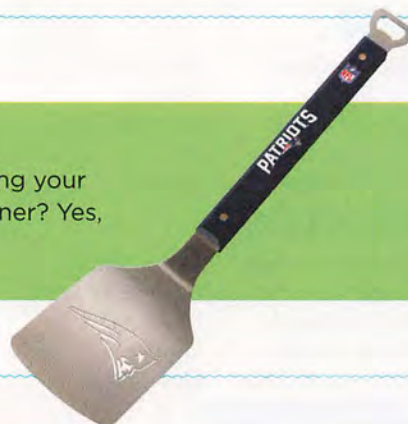


Traeger Ranger Pellet Grill

This portable grill has temperature control, space for six burgers (or 10 hot dogs), and includes a Keep Warm Mode so food is "hot off the grill" no matter when it's served. \$400 traegergrills.com

Sportula

A stainless steel spatula sporting your favorite team and a bottle opener? Yes, please. \$20 youthefan.com



ORCA 40 Quart Cooler

It checks all the boxes: Items stay cold up to 10 days, an easy-flow drainage spout makes for quick cleanup, it's durable, and it can hold 48 cans. \$360 orcacoolers.com

A large, vibrant photograph of a football game being watched on a television screen. The screen is mounted on the roof of a red car, and a blue Dish Tailgater Pro satellite antenna is positioned on top of the screen. In the foreground, the backs of several people's heads and shoulders are visible, suggesting they are gathered around the car to watch the game. The text "NEVER MISS A MOMENT" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

NEVER MISS A MOMENT

Watch live football in HD with a DISH Outdoors portable satellite antenna. No Wi-Fi needed and only pay for the months you use!

dish outdoors
dishformytailgate.com

Who's #1?

Saquon Barkley, RB,
New York Giants

While taking a running back with the first overall pick is often a gamble, Barkley is the best bet among the top backs. Ezekiel Elliott is another option, and it's a toss-up as to which back has the best outlook. The Giants have an offense that will revolve around Barkley now that Odell Beckham Jr. is gone. Eli Manning still can't throw the ball (and could be replaced by first-round pick Daniel Jones sooner rather than later), so Barkley will be involved in the passing game and the running game. No other running backs are in the picture for the Giants.

Barkley is a tough runner and proved to be durable with 261 carries and 91 receptions in his rookie season. He had 1,307 rushing yards, 721 receiving yards and 15 total TDs. With no real downfield options and uncertainty under center, the Giants are going to feed Barkley early and often. Even with the likelihood of facing stacked boxes, Barkley still has the tools and the potential to be a top-tier back in 2019. — **Sarah Lewis, AthlonSports.com fantasy contributor**



With all the question marks that are hanging over Todd Gurley after his playoff performance (or rather the lack of one), it is difficult for me to place him as the top target for 2019 drafts. I think he can easily reclaim the title, but for this year I am going with the second-year phenom, Barkley. Matching the 2,000 total yards in 2018 as the focal point of the offense is a given if he remains healthy. The loss of Odell Beckham Jr. concerns me a bit, but not enough to bump Barkley from the No. 1 spot. — **Chris Meyers, AthlonSports.com fantasy contributor**

Sure, it's tempting to consider Ezekiel Elliott — last year's leader in rushing yards (1,434) — or even last season's TD leader Todd Gurley (with 21). But Barkley checks every box. He's not splitting time in the backfield. At 22, he's only in his second NFL season with fresh legs and a bulldozer-like build that should keep him healthy. Furthermore, he's the Giants' only real playmaker.

In 2018, he had 1,307 yards rushing and tacked on 721 more receiving. And yes, a frightened Eli Manning, who targeted Barkley 121 times last year (second only to Odell Beckham Jr., who's in Cleveland now), should continue dumping it off to Barkley with great regularity. The same will also hold true if rookie Daniel Jones gets his shot. As for the fantasy Holy Grail — touchdowns — there's no reason the NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year can't top last year's 15. Trust me, Barkley is as close to a sure thing as you're ever going to get. — **Rich McVey, Athlon Sports**

I won't lie and say that I'm firmly in one camp. If I'm taking multiple shots at the top pick, I'm not taking the same guy every time. If I have one chance, though, it's Barkley. And it's about certainty.

We know that Barkley, Ezekiel Elliott and Christian McCaffrey will all get the ball a ton. But Barkley's 73.7 percent share of rushing attempts last year beat Elliott's 69.3 and McCaffrey's 52.6. His 20.8 percent share of targets fell short of McCaffrey's 22.0 but beat Elliott (18.0). The Panthers, however, have a couple of young wideouts on the rise: DJ Moore and Curtis Samuel. They missed tight end Greg Olsen for most of last season. The Giants, meanwhile, traded away their lead wideout.

I don't trust the Giants offense to be good. But I know that Barkley will get the ball a whole lot, and I just watched him finish second across fantasy formats in an offense that ranked 16th in scoring.

— **Matt Schauf, DraftSharks.com**

Ezekiel Elliott, RB, Dallas Cowboys

How do I love Zeke? Let me count the ways. First, Elliott is heavily involved in both the run and pass game, despite being the league's leading rusher for the second time in three seasons. Who knows — had he not been suspended for a chunk of 2018, he could be a three-time rushing champion entering '19! Second, this guy is tough, playing in 40 games and rarely dealing with nagging injuries that affect many tailbacks lacking his tenacity. There were just four games last season where he rushed for less than four yards per carry. Third, his market share was greater than any other non-QB last season, getting more of his team's touches/targets than any other running back, wide receiver or tight end. With 26.6 targets/touches per game, he led the NFL, with Todd Gurley (24.07) and Saquon Barkley (23.88) nearly 10 percent behind. Finally, the Cowboys offense is gearing up to be one of the best in the league, which means more first downs, more touches and more scoring opportunities, allowing him to beat last year's relatively disappointing nine TDs.

— *David Gonos, The Athletic*



Alvin Kamara, RB, New Orleans Saints

As we get deeper and deeper into the end of the 2010s, one thing that becomes extremely evident is that there is a clear separation of running back tiers. There are the ones who catch balls and carry 80 percent of the workload, and there are those who don't. No. 1 is as simple as which of those backs you trust the most.

My projection is based on safety. The best, most consistent offense among the top back pool is in New Orleans. Mark Ingram is gone, and Latavius Murray has never been the sort of back to grab a huge fantasy football workload. Thus, Kamara is where I'd head if I had the No. 1 pick. — *Rivers McCown, Football Outsiders*



Patrick Mahomes, QB, Kansas City Chiefs

Quarterback has become a fairly deep position in fantasy, but that doesn't mean there isn't any separation at the top. Mahomes is not just the reigning NFL MVP; he was the best player in fantasy last season, and it wasn't even close. Behind his ridiculous numbers, as in 5,300-plus total yards and 52 touchdowns, Mahomes finished with nearly 100 more fantasy points than the No. 2 quarterback, Matt Ryan (*Athlon* scoring). Even with regression, that's a significant gap for the field to make up.

Mahomes' dual-threat ability only increases his appeal, and there's no doubt that he's the horse Andy Reid is going to hitch his wagon to. Mahomes had at least three TDs in 10 of 16 games, and in the one game that he had just one TD (vs. Jacksonville), he still threw for more than 300 yards (and the TD came on the ground). Mahomes is clearly the biggest thing going in the NFL right now, so why not take him No. 1, sit back and enjoy the ride? — *Mark Ross, Athlon Sports*



POSITION

Rankings



Saquon Barkley

Running Backs

Running Backs	Team	Bye	Running Backs	Team	Bye
1. Saquon Barkley	NYG	11	41. Kareem Hunt	CLE	7
2. Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	8	42. Jalen Richard	OAK	6
3. Christian McCaffrey	CAR	7	43. D'Onta Foreman	HOU	10
4. Alvin Kamara	NO	9	44. Peyton Barber	TB	7
5. Todd Gurley	LAR	9	45. Carlos Hyde	KC	12
6. James Conner	PIT	7	46. Frank Gore	BUF	6
7. Joe Mixon	CIN	9	47. Kalen Ballage	MIA	5
8. David Johnson	ARI	12	48. C.J. Anderson	DET	5
9. Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	4	49. Ito Smith	ATL	9
10. Melvin Gordon	LAC	12	50. Duke Johnson	CLE	7
11. Nick Chubb	CLE	7	51. Chris Thompson	WAS	10
12. Aaron Jones	GB	11	52. Matt Breida	SF	4
13. Leonard Fournette	JAC	10	53. Giovani Bernard	CIN	9
14. Dalvin Cook	MIN	12	54. Jordan Howard	PHI	10
15. Devonta Freeman	ATL	9	55. Jamaal Williams	GB	11
16. Derrick Henry	TEN	11	56. Devin Singletary	BUF	6
17. Josh Jacobs	OAK	6	57. Mike Davis	CHI	6
18. Mark Ingram	BAL	8	58. Alexander Mattison	MIN	12
19. Marlon Mack	IND	6	59. Jerick McKinnon	SF	4
20. Kerryon Johnson	DET	5	60. Damien Harris	NE	10
21. Chris Carson	SEA	11	61. Jaylen Samuels	PIT	7
22. Sony Michel	NE	10	62. Jay Ajayi	FA	
23. Kenyan Drake	MIA	5	63. Kenneth Dixon	BAL	8
24. Damien Williams	KC	12	64. Ty Montgomery	NYJ	4
25. Phillip Lindsay	DEN	10	65. Devontae Booker	DEN	10
26. James White	NE	10	66. Malcolm Brown	LAR	9
27. Lamar Miller	HOU	10	67. Adrian Peterson	WAS	10
28. Tarik Cohen	CHI	6	68. Wayne Gallman	NYG	11
29. Derrius Guice	WAS	10	69. Rex Burkhead	NE	10
30. Tevin Coleman	SF	4	70. Alfred Blue	JAC	10
31. Austin Ekeler	LAC	12	71. Dexter Williams	GB	11
32. Dion Lewis	TEN	11	72. Justice Hill	BAL	8
33. Latavius Murray	NO	9	73. Darrell Henderson	LAR	9
34. David Montgomery	CHI	6	74. Tony Pollard	DAL	8
35. Rashaad Penny	SEA	11	75. Myles Gaskin	MIA	5
36. Royce Freeman	DEN	10	76. Chase Edmonds	ARI	12
37. Miles Sanders	PHI	10	77. Jordan Wilkins	IND	6
38. Ronald Jones	TB	7	78. Spencer Ware	IND	6
39. LeSean McCoy	BUF	6	79. Kyle Juszczyk	SF	4
40. Nyheim Hines	IND	6	80. Chris Warren	OAK	6

Quarterbacks

Quarterbacks	Team	Bye	Quarterbacks	Team	Bye
1. Patrick Mahomes	KC	12	21. Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	4
2. Deshaun Watson	HOU	10	22. Sam Darnold	NYJ	4
3. Andrew Luck	IND	6	23. Lamar Jackson	BAL	8
4. Aaron Rodgers	GB	11	24. Josh Allen	BUF	6
5. Baker Mayfield	CLE	7	25. Derek Carr	OAK	6
6. Carson Wentz	PHI	10	26. Nick Foles	JAC	10
7. Jameis Winston	TB	7	27. Matthew Stafford	DET	5
8. Matt Ryan	ATL	9	28. Marcus Mariota	TEN	11
9. Russell Wilson	SEA	11	29. Eli Manning	NYG	11
10. Cam Newton	CAR	7	30. Josh Rosen	MIA	5
11. Jared Goff	LAR	9	31. Joe Flacco	DEN	10
12. Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	7	32. Case Keenum	WAS	10
13. Kyler Murray	ARI	12	33. Dwayne Haskins	WAS	10
14. Tom Brady	NE	10	34. Ryan Tannehill	TEN	11
15. Drew Brees	NO	9	35. Ryan Fitzpatrick	MIA	5
16. Dak Prescott	DAL	8	36. Nick Mullens	SF	4
17. Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	6	37. Nate Sudfeld	PHI	10
18. Philip Rivers	LAC	12	38. DeShone Kizer	GB	11
19. Kirk Cousins	MIN	12	39. Blaine Gabbert	TB	7
20. Andy Dalton	CIN	9	40. Will Grier	CAR	7



Patrick Mahomes



Deshaun Watson

Wide Receivers

Wide Receivers	Team	Bye	Wide Receivers	Team	Bye
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Julio Jones	ATL	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 46. Albert Wilson	MIA	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 47. Donte Moncrief	PIT	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 48. DeSean Jackson	PHI	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Davante Adams	GB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 49. Jamison Crowder	NYJ	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Michael Thomas	NO	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 50. Taylor Gabriel	CHI	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 51. Doug Baldwin	SEA	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. T.Y. Hilton	IND	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 52. Emmanuel Sanders	DEN	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Antonio Brown	OAK	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 53. Marqise Lee	JAC	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Robert Woods	LAR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 54. Mecole Hardman	KC	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Mike Evans	TB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 55. N'Keal Harry	NE	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Adam Thielen	MIN	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 56. DeVante Parker	MIA	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Brandin Cooks	LAR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 57. Will Fuller	HOU	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Keenan Allen	LAC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 58. Travis Benjamin	LAC	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. A.J. Green	CIN	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 59. M. Valdes-Scantling	GB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Stefon Diggs	MIN	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 60. Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Amari Cooper	DAL	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 61. Tre'Quan Smith	NO	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 17. Julian Edelman	NE	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 62. John Brown	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Sammy Watkins	KC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 63. Michael Gallup	DAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Kenny Golladay	DET	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 64. James Washington	PIT	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 20. Tyler Boyd	CIN	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 65. Trey Quinn	WAS	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 21. Tyler Lockett	SEA	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 66. Anthony Miller	CHI	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22. Chris Godwin	TB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 67. Geronimo Allison	GB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 23. Cooper Kupp	LAR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 68. Paul Richardson	WAS	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 24. Alshon Jeffery	PHI	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 69. John Ross	CIN	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 25. Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 70. Randall Cobb	DAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 26. DJ Moore	CAR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 71. Josh Doctson	WAS	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 27. Robby Anderson	NYJ	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 72. Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 28. Sterling Shepard	NYG	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 73. Adam Humphries	TEN	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 29. Christian Kirk	ARI	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 74. Marquise Brown	BAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 30. Dede Westbrook	JAC	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 75. Robert Foster	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 31. Corey Davis	TEN	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 76. Andy Isabella	ARI	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 32. Tyrell Williams	OAK	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 77. Justin Watson	TB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 33. Courtland Sutton	DEN	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 78. D.K. Metcalf	SEA	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 34. Dante Pettis	SF	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 79. Marquise Goodwin	SF	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 35. Allen Robinson	CHI	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 80. Rashard Higgins	CLE	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 36. Jarvis Landry	CLE	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 81. Nelson Agholor	PHI	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 37. Calvin Ridley	ATL	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 82. Cole Beasley	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 38. Mike Williams	LAC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 83. Willie Snead	BAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 39. Golden Tate	NYG	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 84. Demaryius Thomas	NE	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 40. Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 85. Zay Jones	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 41. Keke Coutee	HOU	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 86. Ryan Grant	OAK	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 42. Devin Funchess	IND	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 87. A.J. Brown	TEN	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 43. Curtis Samuel	CAR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 88. Tim Patrick	DEN	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 44. Mohamed Sanu	ATL	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 89. Demarcus Robinson	KC	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 45. Kenny Stills	MIA	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 90. DaeSean Hamilton	DEN	10

Tight Ends

Tight Ends	Team	Bye	Tight Ends	Team	Bye
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Travis Kelce	KC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 26. Delanie Walker	TEN	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Zach Ertz	PHI	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 27. Luke Willson	OAK	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. George Kittle	SF	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 28. Geoff Swaim	JAC	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Hunter Henry	LAC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 29. Gerald Everett	LAR	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Evan Engram	NYG	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 30. Cameron Brate	TB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. O.J. Howard	TB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 31. Mark Andrews	BAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Austin Hooper	ATL	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 32. Tyler Kroft	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Jared Cook	NO	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 33. Charles Clay	ARI	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Kyle Rudolph	MIN	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 34. Noah Fant	DEN	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Eric Ebron	IND	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 35. Tyler Higbee	LAR	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. David Njoku	CLE	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 36. Greg Olsen	CAR	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Chris Herndon	NYJ	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 37. Hayden Hurst	BAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Jack Doyle	IND	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 38. Jesse James	DET	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Vance McDonald	PIT	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 39. Vernon Davis	WAS	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Trey Burton	CHI	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 40. Jonnu Smith	TEN	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Jordan Reed	WAS	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 41. Ryan Griffin	HOU	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 17. T.J. Hockenson	DET	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 42. Nick Vannett	SEA	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Mike Gesicki	MIA	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 43. Foster Moreau	OAK	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Jimmy Graham	GB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 44. C.J. Uzomah	CIN	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 20. Austin Seferian-Jenkins	NE	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 45. Josh Oliver	JAC	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 21. Ian Thomas	CAR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 46. Ricky Seals-Jones	ARI	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 22. Dallas Goedert	PHI	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 47. Will Dissly	SEA	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 23. Tyler Eifert	CIN	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 48. Jace Sternberger	GB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 24. Jeff Heuerman	DEN	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 49. Blake Jarwin	DAL	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 25. Jason Witten	DAL	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 50. Irv Smith Jr.	MIN	12

Kickers

Kickers	Team	Bye	Kickers	Team	Bye
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Greg Zuerlein	LAR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 17. Michael Badgley	LAC	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. Harrison Butker	KC	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Dan Bailey	MIN	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Stephen Hauschka	BUF	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Justin Tucker	BAL	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 20. Daniel Carlson	OAK	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Stephen Gostkowski	NE	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 21. Chris Boswell	PIT	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Wil Lutz	NO	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 22. Austin Seibert	CLE	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Matt Gay	TB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 23. Zane Gonzalez	ARI	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Adam Vinatieri	IND	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 24. Brandon McManus	DEN	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. Robbie Gould	SF	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 25. Chandler Catanzaro	NYJ	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. Jake Elliott	PHI	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 26. Josh Lambo	JAC	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Matt Prater	DET	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 27. Aldrick Rosas	NYG	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. Jason Myers	SEA	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 28. Eddy Piñeiro	CHI	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Giorgio Tavecchio	ATL	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 29. Ryan Succop	TEN	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Brett Maher	DAL	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 30. Dustin Hopkins	WAS	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Mason Crosby	GB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 31. Randy Bullock	CIN	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Graham Gano	CAR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32. Jason Sanders	MIA	5

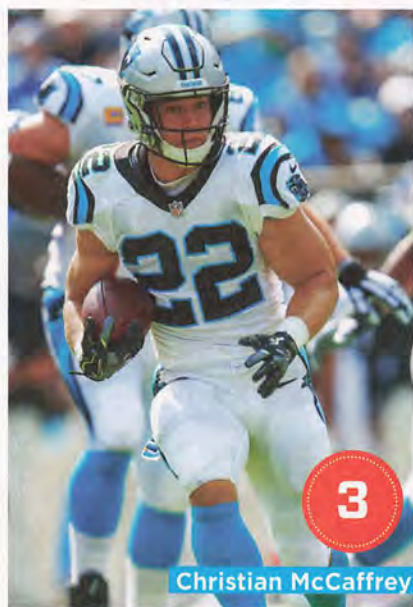
Defense/Special Teams

Defense/Special Teams	Bye	Defense/Special Teams	Bye
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Chicago	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 17. Tampa Bay	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 2. L.A. Chargers	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 18. Washington	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 3. Minnesota	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 19. Buffalo	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 4. Kansas City	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 20. Dallas	8
<input type="checkbox"/> 5. Jacksonville	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 21. Cleveland	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 6. Philadelphia	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 22. Detroit	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 7. Denver	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 23. Atlanta	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 8. Houston	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 24. Cincinnati	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 9. L.A. Rams	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 25. Miami	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 10. New England	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 26. N.Y. Jets	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Indianapolis	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 27. Tennessee	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 12. New Orleans	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 28. Green Bay	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 13. Pittsburgh	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 29. N.Y. Giants	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14. Arizona	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 30. San Francisco	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 15. Baltimore	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 31. Seattle	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 16. Carolina	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 32. Oakland	6



TOP 280 FANTASY Big Board

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Christian McCaffrey



Todd Gurley

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye	Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.	Saquon Barkley	NYG	RB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 61.	James White	NE	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	RB	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 62.	Lamar Miller	HOU	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 63.	Tarik Cohen	CHI	RB	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 4.	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 64.	Derrius Guice	WAS	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 5.	Todd Gurley	LAR	RB	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 65.	O.J. Howard	TB	TE	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 6.	Julio Jones	ATL	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 66.	Tevin Coleman	SF	RB	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 7.	Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	WR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 67.	Austin Ekeler	LAC	RB	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 8.	James Conner	PIT	RB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 68.	Dion Lewis	TEN	RB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 9.	Joe Mixon	CIN	RB	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 69.	Latavius Murray	NO	RB	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 10.	David Johnson	ARI	RB	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 70.	David Montgomery	CHI	RB	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 11.	Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	RB	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 71.	Austin Hooper	ATL	TE	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 12.	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 72.	Jared Cook	NO	TE	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 13.	Melvin Gordon	LAC	RB	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 73.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	QB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 14.	JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	WR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 74.	Sterling Shepard	NYG	WR	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 15.	Davante Adams	GB	WR	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 75.	Christian Kirk	ARI	WR	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 16.	Michael Thomas	NO	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 76.	Dede Westbrook	JAC	WR	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 17.	DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	WR	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 77.	Corey Davis	TEN	WR	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 18.	Nick Chubb	CLE	RB	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 78.	Tyrell Williams	OAK	WR	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 19.	Aaron Jones	GB	RB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 79.	Courtland Sutton	DEN	WR	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 20.	Leonard Fournette	JAC	RB	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 80.	Dante Pettis	SF	WR	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 21.	Dalvin Cook	MIN	RB	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 81.	Allen Robinson	CHI	WR	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 22.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	WR	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 82.	Jarvis Landry	CLE	WR	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 23.	Antonio Brown	OAK	WR	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 83.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	QB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 24.	Zach Ertz	PHI	TE	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 84.	Carson Wentz	PHI	QB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 25.	Devonta Freeman	ATL	RB	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 85.	Calvin Ridley	ATL	WR	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 26.	Robert Woods	LAR	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 86.	Mike Williams	LAC	WR	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 27.	Mike Evans	TB	WR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 87.	Rashaad Penny	SEA	RB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 28.	Adam Thielen	MIN	WR	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 88.	Royce Freeman	DEN	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 29.	Brandin Cooks	LAR	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 89.	Miles Sanders	PHI	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 30.	Keenan Allen	LAC	WR	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 90.	Golden Tate	NYG	WR	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 31.	A.J. Green	CIN	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 91.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	WR	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 32.	Derrick Henry	TEN	RB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 92.	Keke Coutee	HOU	WR	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 33.	Josh Jacobs	OAK	RB	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 93.	Devin Funchess	IND	WR	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 34.	Mark Ingram	BAL	RB	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 94.	Jameis Winston	TB	QB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 35.	Marlon Mack	IND	RB	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 95.	Matt Ryan	ATL	QB	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 36.	Kerryon Johnson	DET	RB	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 96.	Russell Wilson	SEA	QB	11
<input type="checkbox"/> 37.	Stefon Diggs	MIN	WR	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 97.	Cam Newton	CAR	QB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 38.	Amari Cooper	DAL	WR	8	<input type="checkbox"/> 98.	Ronald Jones	TB	RB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 39.	George Kittle	SF	TE	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 99.	LeSean McCoy	BUF	RB	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 40.	Julian Edelman	NE	WR	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 100.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	TE	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 41.	Sammy Watkins	KC	WR	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 101.	Eric Ebron	IND	TE	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 42.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	QB	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 102.	David Njoku	CLE	TE	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 43.	Chris Carson	SEA	RB	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 103.	Curtis Samuel	CAR	WR	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 44.	Sony Michel	NE	RB	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 104.	Mohamed Sanu	ATL	WR	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 45.	Kenyan Drake	MIA	RB	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 105.	Kenny Stills	MIA	WR	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 46.	Hunter Henry	LAC	TE	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 106.	Nyheim Hines	IND	RB	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 47.	Deshawn Watson	HOU	QB	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 107.	Kareem Hunt	CLE	RB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 48.	Kenny Golladay	DET	WR	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 108.	Jared Goff	LAR	QB	9
<input type="checkbox"/> 49.	Tyler Boyd	CIN	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 109.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	QB	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 50.	Tyler Lockett	SEA	WR	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 110.	Kyler Murray	ARI	QB	12
<input type="checkbox"/> 51.	Chris Godwin	TB	WR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 111.	Albert Wilson	MIA	WR	5
<input type="checkbox"/> 52.	Damien Williams	KC	RB	12	<input type="checkbox"/> 112.	Donte Moncrief	PIT	WR	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 53.	Phillip Lindsay	DEN	RB	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 113.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	WR	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 54.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	WR	9	<input type="checkbox"/> 114.	Chris Herndon	NYJ	TE	4
<input type="checkbox"/> 55.	Alshon Jeffery	PHI	WR	10	<input type="checkbox"/> 115.	Jack Doyle	IND	TE	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 56.	Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	WR	5	<input type="checkbox"/> 116.	Vance McDonald	PIT	TE	7
<input type="checkbox"/> 57.	DJ Moore	CAR	WR	7	<input type="checkbox"/> 117.	Trey Burton	CHI	TE	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 58.	Robby Anderson	NYJ	WR	4	<input type="checkbox"/> 118.	Jalen Richard	OAK	RB	6
<input type="checkbox"/> 59.	Evan Engram	NYG	TE	11	<input type="checkbox"/> 119.	D'Onta Foreman	HOU	RB	10
<input type="checkbox"/> 60.	Andrew Luck	IND	QB	6	<input type="checkbox"/> 120.	Peyton Barber	TB	RB	7

Gurley, Carr: Peter Brouillet; McCaffrey: WE Smith II

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
□ 121.	Carlos Hyde	KC	RB	12
□ 122.	Tom Brady	NE	QB	10
□ 123.	Drew Brees	NO	QB	9
□ 124.	Dak Prescott	DAL	QB	8
□ 125.	Jamison Crowder	NYJ	WR	4
□ 126.	Taylor Gabriel	CHI	WR	6
□ 127.	Doug Baldwin	SEA	WR	11
□ 128.	Emmanuel Sanders	DEN	WR	10
□ 129.	Frank Gore	BUF	RB	6
□ 130.	Kalen Ballage	MIA	RB	5
□ 131.	C.J. Anderson	DET	RB	5
□ 132.	Jordan Reed	WAS	TE	10
□ 133.	Ito Smith	ATL	RB	9
□ 134.	Duke Johnson	CLE	RB	7
□ 135.	Chris Thompson	WAS	RB	10
□ 136.	Matt Breida	SF	RB	4
□ 137.	Giovani Bernard	CIN	RB	9
□ 138.	Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	QB	6
□ 139.	Philip Rivers	LAC	QB	12
□ 140.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	QB	12
□ 141.	Jordan Howard	PHI	RB	10
□ 142.	Jamaal Williams	GB	RB	11
□ 143.	Devin Singletary	BUF	RB	6
□ 144.	Mike Davis	CHI	RB	6
□ 145.	Bears	CHI	DST	6
□ 146.	Marqise Lee	JAC	WR	10
□ 147.	Mecole Hardman	KC	WR	12
□ 148.	N'Keal Harry	NE	WR	10
□ 149.	Chargers	LAC	DST	12
□ 150.	Vikings	MIN	DST	12
□ 151.	Chiefs	KC	DST	12
□ 152.	Jaguars	JAC	DST	10
□ 153.	Alexander Mattison	MIN	RB	12
□ 154.	Jerick McKinnon	SF	RB	4
□ 155.	Damien Harris	NE	RB	10
□ 156.	T.J. Hockenson	DET	TE	5
□ 157.	Mike Gesicki	MIA	TE	5
□ 158.	Jimmy Graham	GB	TE	11
□ 159.	DeVante Parker	MIA	WR	5
□ 160.	Will Fuller	HOU	WR	10
□ 161.	Travis Benjamin	LAC	WR	12
□ 162.	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	GB	WR	11
□ 163.	Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	WR	9
□ 164.	Tre'Quan Smith	NO	WR	9
□ 165.	John Brown	BUF	WR	6
□ 166.	Michael Gallup	DAL	WR	8
□ 167.	James Washington	PIT	WR	7
□ 168.	Trey Quinn	WAS	WR	10
□ 169.	Anthony Miller	CHI	WR	6
□ 170.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	NE	TE	10
□ 171.	Ian Thomas	CAR	TE	7
□ 172.	Dallas Goedert	PHI	TE	10
□ 173.	Tyler Eifert	CIN	TE	9
□ 174.	Jaylen Samuels	PIT	RB	7
□ 175.	Jay Ajayi	FA	RB	
□ 176.	Kenneth Dixon	BAL	RB	8
□ 177.	Geronimo Allison	GB	WR	11
□ 178.	Paul Richardson	WAS	WR	10
□ 179.	John Ross	CIN	WR	9
□ 180.	Eagles	PHI	DST	10

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
□ 181.	Broncos	DEN	DST	10
□ 182.	Texans	HOU	DST	10
□ 183.	Randall Cobb	DAL	WR	8
□ 184.	Josh Doctson	WAS	WR	10
□ 185.	Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	WR	4
□ 186.	Adam Humphries	TEN	WR	11
□ 187.	Marquise Brown	BAL	WR	8
□ 188.	Robert Foster	BUF	WR	6
□ 189.	Andy Isabella	ARI	WR	12
□ 190.	Jeff Heuerman	DEN	TE	10
□ 191.	Jason Witten	DAL	TE	8
□ 192.	Delanie Walker	TEN	TE	11
□ 193.	Ty Montgomery	NYJ	RB	4
□ 194.	Devontae Booker	DEN	RB	10
□ 195.	Malcolm Brown	LAR	RB	9
□ 196.	Adrian Peterson	WAS	RB	10
□ 197.	Justin Watson	TB	WR	7
□ 198.	D.K. Metcalf	SEA	WR	11
□ 199.	Marquise Goodwin	SF	WR	4
□ 200.	Rams	LAR	DST	9
□ 201.	Patriots	NE	DST	10
□ 202.	Colts	IND	DST	6
□ 203.	Saints	NO	DST	9
□ 204.	Greg Zuerlein	LAR	K	9
□ 205.	Harrison Butker	KC	K	12
□ 206.	Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	K	10
□ 207.	Justin Tucker	BAL	K	8
□ 208.	Stephen Gostkowski	NE	K	10
□ 209.	Wil Lutz	NO	K	9
□ 210.	Matt Gay	TB	K	7
□ 211.	Adam Vinatieri	IND	K	6
□ 212.	Robbie Gould	SF	K	4
□ 213.	Jake Elliott	PHI	K	10
□ 214.	Matt Prater	DET	K	5
□ 215.	Jason Myers	SEA	K	11
□ 216.	Wayne Gallman	NYG	RB	11
□ 217.	Rex Burkhead	NE	RB	10
□ 218.	Alfred Blue	JAC	RB	10
□ 219.	Rashard Higgins	CLE	WR	7
□ 220.	Nelson Agholor	PHI	WR	10
□ 221.	Cole Beasley	BUF	WR	6
□ 222.	Willie Snead	BAL	WR	8
□ 223.	Demaryius Thomas	NE	WR	10
□ 224.	Andy Dalton	CIN	QB	9
□ 225.	Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	QB	4
□ 226.	Sam Darnold	NYJ	QB	4
□ 227.	Lamar Jackson	BAL	QB	8
□ 228.	Josh Allen	BUF	QB	6
□ 229.	Derek Carr	OAK	QB	6
□ 230.	Zay Jones	BUF	WR	6
□ 231.	Ryan Grant	OAK	WR	6
□ 232.	A.J. Brown	TEN	WR	11
□ 233.	Tim Patrick	DEN	WR	10
□ 234.	Demarcus Robinson	KC	WR	12
□ 235.	DaeSean Hamilton	DEN	WR	10
□ 236.	Dexter Williams	GB	RB	11
□ 237.	Justice Hill	BAL	RB	8
□ 238.	Darrell Henderson	LAR	RB	9
□ 239.	Tony Pollard	DAL	RB	8
□ 240.	Myles Gaskin	MIA	RB	5

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
□ 241.	Keelan Cole	JAC	WR	10
□ 242.	Josh Gordon	NE	WR	10
□ 243.	Deebo Samuel	SF	WR	4
□ 244.	Luke Willson	OAK	TE	6
□ 245.	Geoff Swaim	JAC	TE	10
□ 246.	Gerald Everett	LAR	TE	9
□ 247.	Cameron Brate	TB	TE	7
□ 248.	Mark Andrews	BAL	TE	8
□ 249.	Nick Foles	JAC	QB	10
□ 250.	Matthew Stafford	DET	QB	5
□ 251.	Marcus Mariota	TEN	QB	11
□ 252.	Eli Manning	NYG	QB	11
□ 253.	Chase Edmonds	ARI	RB	12
□ 254.	Jordan Wilkins	IND	RB	6
□ 255.	Spencer Ware	IND	RB	6
□ 256.	Kyle Juszczyk	SF	RB	4
□ 257.	Chris Warren	OAK	RB	6
□ 258.	Ryquell Armstead	JAC	RB	10
□ 259.	Bryce Love	WAS	RB	10
□ 260.	Darwin Thompson	KC	RB	12
□ 261.	Hakeem Butler	ARI	WR	12
□ 262.	Jarius Wright	CAR	WR	7
□ 263.	Chester Rogers	IND	WR	6
□ 264.	Parris Campbell	IND	WR	6
□ 265.	Equanimeous St. Brown	GB	WR	11
□ 266.	Gary Jennings	SEA	WR	11
□ 267.	Cordarrelle Patterson	CHI	WR	6
□ 268.	Josh Rosen	MIA	QB	5
□ 269.	Joe Flacco	DEN	QB	10
□ 270.	Gus Edwards	BAL	RB	8
□ 271.	Doug Martin	OAK	RB	6
□ 272.	Qadree Ollison	ATL	RB	9
□ 273.	Karan Higdon	HOU	RB	10
□ 274.	Steelers	PIT	DST	7
□ 275.	Cardinals	ARI	DST	12
□ 276.	Ravens	BAL	DST	8
□ 277.	Panthers	CAR	DST	7
□ 278.	Tyler Kroft	BUF	TE	6
□ 279.	Charles Clay	ARI	TE	12
□ 280.	Noah Fant	DEN	TE	10



Derek Carr

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18

Nick Chubb



44

Sony Michel

Top 65 IDPs

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
1.	Darius Leonard	IND	LB	6
2.	Bobby Wagner	SEA	LB	11
3.	Deion Jones	ATL	LB	9
4.	Joey Bosa	LAC	DE	12
5.	Aaron Donald	LAR	DE	9
6.	Leighton Vander Esch	DAL	LB	8
7.	J.J. Watt	HOU	DE	10
8.	Luke Kuechly	CAR	LB	7
9.	Roquan Smith	CHI	LB	6

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
10.	Danielle Hunter	MIN	DE	12
11.	Derwin James	LAC	S	12
12.	Tremaine Edmunds	BUF	LB	6
13.	Landon Collins	WAS	S	10
14.	Jamal Adams	NYJ	S	4
15.	Blake Martinez	GB	LB	11
16.	Lavonte David	TB	LB	7
17.	Alec Ogletree	NYG	LB	11
18.	Myles Garrett	CLE	DE	7

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
19.	Jason Pierre-Paul	TB	DE	7
20.	Cameron Jordan	NO	DE	9
21.	Demarcus Lawrence	DAL	DE	8
22.	Budda Baker	ARI	S	12
23.	Keanu Neal	ATL	S	9
24.	Cory Littleton	LAR	LB	9
25.	Telvin Smith	JAC	LB	10
26.	Melvin Ingram	LAC	DE	12
27.	Frank Clark	KC	DE	12

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
28.	Jaylon Smith	DAL	LB	8
29.	Devin White	TB	LB	7
30.	Calais Campbell	JAC	DE	10
31.	Chris Jones	KC	DT	12
32.	DeForest Buckner	SF	DT	4
33.	Reshad Jones	MIA	S	5
34.	Khalil Mack	CHI	LB	6
35.	Kiko Alonso	MIA	LB	5
36.	Everson Griffen	MIN	DE	12

Chubb, Zuerlein; Peter Brouillett; Michel; W.E. Smith III

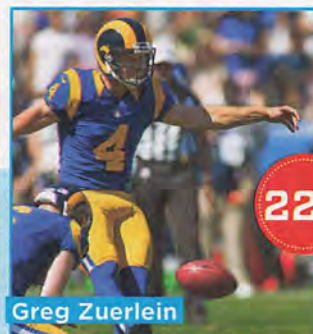
Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye	Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
1.	Saquon Barkley	NYG	RB	11	50.	Tyler Lockett	SEA	WR	11
2.	Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	RB	8	51.	Chris Godwin	TB	WR	7
3.	Christian McCaffrey	CAR	RB	7	52.	Damien Williams	KC	RB	12
4.	Alvin Kamara	NO	RB	9	53.	Phillip Lindsay	DEN	RB	10
5.	Todd Gurley	LAR	RB	9	54.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	WR	9
6.	Julio Jones	ATL	WR	9	55.	Alshon Jeffery	PHI	WR	10
7.	Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	WR	7	56.	Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	WR	5
8.	James Conner	PIT	RB	7	57.	DJ Moore	CAR	WR	7
9.	Joe Mixon	CIN	RB	9	58.	Robby Anderson	NYJ	WR	4
10.	David Johnson	ARI	RB	12	59.	Evan Engram	NYG	TE	11
11.	Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	RB	4	60.	Andrew Luck	IND	QB	6
12.	Travis Kelce	KC	TE	12	61.	James White	NE	RB	10
13.	Melvin Gordon	LAC	RB	12	62.	Lamar Miller	HOU	RB	10
14.	JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	WR	7	63.	Tarik Cohen	CHI	RB	6
15.	Davante Adams	GB	WR	11	64.	Derrius Guice	WAS	RB	10
16.	Michael Thomas	NO	WR	9	65.	O.J. Howard	TB	TE	7
17.	DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	WR	10	66.	Tevin Coleman	SF	RB	4
18.	Nick Chubb	CLE	RB	7	67.	Austin Ekeler	LAC	RB	12
19.	Aaron Jones	GB	RB	11	68.	Dion Lewis	TEN	RB	11
20.	Leonard Fournette	JAC	RB	10	69.	Latavius Murray	NO	RB	9
21.	Dalvin Cook	MIN	RB	12	70.	David Montgomery	CHI	RB	6
22.	T.Y. Hilton	IND	WR	6	71.	Austin Hooper	ATL	TE	9
23.	Antonio Brown	OAK	WR	6	72.	Jared Cook	NO	TE	9
24.	Zach Ertz	PHI	TE	10	73.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	QB	11
25.	Devonta Freeman	ATL	RB	9	74.	Sterling Shepard	NYG	WR	11
26.	Robert Woods	LAR	WR	9	75.	Christian Kirk	ARI	WR	12
27.	Mike Evans	TB	WR	7	76.	Dede Westbrook	JAC	WR	10
28.	Adam Thielen	MIN	WR	12	77.	Corey Davis	TEN	WR	11
29.	Brandin Cooks	LAR	WR	9	78.	Tyrell Williams	OAK	WR	6
30.	Keenan Allen	LAC	WR	12	79.	Courtland Sutton	DEN	WR	10
31.	A.J. Green	CIN	WR	9	80.	Dante Pettis	SF	WR	4
32.	Derrick Henry	TEN	RB	11	81.	Allen Robinson	CHI	WR	6
33.	Josh Jacobs	OAK	RB	6	82.	Jarvis Landry	CLE	WR	7
34.	Mark Ingram	BAL	RB	8	83.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	QB	7
35.	Marlon Mack	IND	RB	6	84.	Carson Wentz	PHI	QB	10
36.	Kerryon Johnson	DET	RB	5	85.	Darius Leonard	IND	LB	6
37.	Stefon Diggs	MIN	WR	12	86.	Bobby Wagner	SEA	LB	11
38.	Amari Cooper	DAL	WR	8	87.	Deion Jones	ATL	LB	9
39.	George Kittle	SF	TE	4	88.	Calvin Ridley	ATL	WR	9
40.	Julian Edelman	NE	WR	10	89.	Mike Williams	LAC	WR	12
41.	Sammy Watkins	KC	WR	12	90.	Rashaad Penny	SEA	RB	11
42.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	QB	12	91.	Royce Freeman	DEN	RB	10
43.	Chris Carson	SEA	RB	11	92.	Miles Sanders	PHI	RB	10
44.	Sony Michel	NE	RB	10	93.	Golden Tate	NYG	WR	11
45.	Kenyan Drake	MIA	RB	5	94.	Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	WR	12
46.	Hunter Henry	LAC	TE	12	95.	Keke Coutee	HOU	WR	10
47.	Deshaun Watson	HOU	QB	10	96.	Devin Funchess	IND	WR	6
48.	Kenny Golladay	DET	WR	5	97.	Jameis Winston	TB	QB	7
49.	Tyler Boyd	CIN	WR	9	98.	Matt Ryan	ATL	QB	9

Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye	Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye	Rank	Player	Team	Pos	Bye
99.	Russell Wilson	SEA	QB	11	148.	Doug Baldwin	SEA	WR	11	197.	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	GB	WR	11
100.	Cam Newton	CAR	QB	7	149.	Emmanuel Sanders	DEN	WR	10	198.	Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	WR	9
101.	Joey Bosa	LAC	DE	12	150.	Frank Gore	BUF	RB	6	199.	Tre'Quan Smith	NO	WR	9
102.	Aaron Donald	LAR	DE	9	151.	Kalen Ballage	MIA	RB	5	200.	John Brown	BUF	WR	6
103.	Leighton Vander Esch	DAL	LB	8	152.	C.J. Anderson	DET	RB	5	201.	Michael Gallup	DAL	WR	8
104.	J.J. Watt	HOU	DE	10	153.	Budda Baker	ARI	S	12	202.	James Washington	PIT	WR	7
105.	Luke Kuechly	CAR	LB	7	154.	Keanu Neal	ATL	S	9	203.	Trey Quinn	WAS	WR	10
106.	Ronald Jones	TB	RB	7	155.	Cory Littleton	LAR	LB	9	204.	Anthony Miller	CHI	WR	6
107.	LeSean McCoy	BUF	RB	6	156.	Telvin Smith	JAC	LB	10	205.	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	NE	TE	10
108.	Roquan Smith	CHI	LB	6	157.	Melvin Ingram	LAC	DE	12	206.	Ian Thomas	CAR	TE	7
109.	Danielle Hunter	MIN	DE	12	158.	Jordan Reed	WAS	TE	10	207.	Dallas Goedert	PHI	TE	10
110.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	TE	12	159.	Ito Smith	ATL	RB	9	208.	Tyler Eifert	CIN	TE	9
111.	Eric Ebron	IND	TE	6	160.	Duke Johnson	CLE	RB	7	209.	Jaylen Samuels	PIT	RB	7
112.	David Njoku	CLE	TE	7	161.	Chris Thompson	WAS	RB	10	210.	Jay Ajayi	FA	RB	
113.	Curtis Samuel	CAR	WR	7	162.	Matt Breida	SF	RB	4	211.	Kenneth Dixon	BAL	RB	8
114.	Mohamed Sanu	ATL	WR	9	163.	Giovani Bernard	CIN	RB	9	212.	Geronimo Allison	GB	WR	11
115.	Kenny Stills	MIA	WR	5	164.	Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	QB	6	213.	Paul Richardson	WAS	WR	10
116.	Nyheim Hines	IND	RB	6	165.	Philip Rivers	LAC	QB	12	214.	John Ross	CIN	WR	9
117.	Kareem Hunt	CLE	RB	7	166.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	QB	12	215.	Randall Cobb	DAL	WR	8
118.	Jared Goff	LAR	QB	9	167.	Jordan Howard	PHI	RB	10	216.	Josh Doctson	WAS	WR	10
119.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	QB	7	168.	Jamaal Williams	GB	RB	11	217.	Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	WR	4
120.	Kyler Murray	ARI	QB	12	169.	Devin Singletary	BUF	RB	6	218.	Adam Humphries	TEN	WR	11
121.	Derwin James	LAC	S	12	170.	Frank Clark	KC	DE	12	219.	Marquise Brown	BAL	WR	8
122.	Tremaine Edmunds	BUF	LB	6	171.	Jaylon Smith	DAL	LB	8	220.	Robert Foster	BUF	WR	6
123.	Landon Collins	WAS	S	10	172.	Devin White	TB	LB	7	221.	Andy Isabella	ARI	WR	12
124.	Jamal Adams	NYJ	S	4	173.	Mike Davis	CHI	RB	6	222.	Jeff Heuerman	DEN	TE	10
125.	Albert Wilson	MIA	WR	5	174.	Marqise Lee	JAC	WR	10	223.	Jason Witten	DAL	TE	8
126.	Donte Moncrief	PIT	WR	7	175.	Mecole Hardman	KC	WR	12	224.	Delanie Walker	TEN	TE	11
127.	DeSean Jackson	PHI	WR	10	176.	N'Keal Harry	NE	WR	10	225.	Ty Montgomery	NYJ	RB	4
128.	Chris Herndon	NYJ	TE	4	177.	Calais Campbell	JAC	DE	10	226.	Devontae Booker	DEN	RB	10
129.	Jack Doyle	IND	TE	6	178.	Chris Jones	KC	DT	12	227.	Malcolm Brown	LAR	RB	9
130.	Vance McDonald	PIT	TE	7	179.	DeForest Buckner	SF	DT	4	228.	Adrian Peterson	WAS	RB	10
131.	Trey Burton	CHI	TE	6	180.	Alexander Mattison	MIN	RB	12	229.	Greg Zuerlein	LAR	K	9
132.	Jalen Richard	OAK	RB	6	181.	Jerick McKinnon	SF	RB	4	230.	Harrison Butker	KC	K	12
133.	D'Onta Foreman	HOU	RB	10	182.	Damien Harris	NE	RB	10	231.	Ka'imi Fairbairn	HOU	K	10
134.	Peyton Barber	TB	RB	7	183.	T.J. Hockenson	DET	TE	5	232.	Justin Tucker	BAL	K	8
135.	Carlos Hyde	KC	RB	12	184.	Mike Gesicki	MIA	TE	5	233.	Stephen Gostkowski	NE	K	10
136.	Tom Brady	NE	QB	10	185.	Jimmy Graham	GB	TE	11	234.	Wil Lutz	NO	K	9
137.	Drew Brees	NO	QB	9	186.	Reshad Jones	MIA	S	5	235.	Matt Gay	TB	K	7
138.	Dak Prescott	DAL	QB	8	187.	Khalil Mack	CHI	LB	6	236.	Adam Vinatieri	IND	K	6
139.	Blake Martinez	GB	LB	11	188.	Kiko Alonso	MIA	LB	5	237.	Robbie Gould	SF	K	4
140.	Lavonte David	TB	LB	7	189.	Everson Griffen	MIN	DE	12	238.	Jake Elliott	PHI	K	10
141.	Alec Ogletree	NYG	LB	11	190.	Kwon Alexander	TB	LB	7	239.	Matt Prater	DET	K	5
142.	Myles Garrett	CLE	DE	7	191.	C.J. Mosley	NYJ	LB	4	240.	Jason Myers	SEA	K	11
143.	Jason Pierre-Paul	TB	DE	7	192.	Dee Ford	SF	DE	4					
144.	Cameron Jordan	NO	DE	9	193.	Carlos Dunlap	CIN	DE	9					
145.	Demarcus Lawrence	DAL	DE	8	194.	DeVante Parker	MIA	WR	5					
146.	Jamison Crowder	NYJ	WR	4	195.	Will Fuller	HOU	WR	10					
147.	Taylor Gabriel	CHI	WR	6	196.	Travis Benjamin	LAC	WR	12					

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
37.	Kwon Alexander	TB	LB	7
38.	C.J. Mosley	NYJ	LB	4
39.	Dee Ford	SF	DE	4
40.	Carlos Dunlap	CIN	DE	9
41.	Jordan Poyer	BUF	S	6
42.	Shawn Williams	CIN	S	9
43.	John Johnson	LAR	S	9
44.	Johnathan Abram	OAK	S	6
45.	Eric Kendricks	MIN	LB	12

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
46.	Joe Schobert	CLE	LB	7
47.	Devin Bush	PIT	LB	7
48.	Harrison Smith	MIN	S	12
49.	Damarious Randall	CLE	S	7
50.	Jabrill Peppers	NYG	S	11
51.	Malcolm Jenkins	PHI	S	10
52.	Nick Vigil	CIN	LB	9
53.	Mason Foster	WAS	LB	10
54.	Jordan Hicks	ARI	LB	12

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
55.	Danny Trevathan	CHI	LB	6
56.	Demario Davis	NO	LB	9
57.	Reuben Foster	WAS	LB	10
58.	Akiem Hicks	CHI	DE	6
59.	Justin Houston	IND	DE	6
60.	Brandon Graham	PHI	DE	10
61.	Cameron Heyward	PIT	DE	7
62.	Tyrann Mathieu	KC	S	12
63.	Bradley McDougald	SEA	S	11



Greg Zuerlein

RK	PLAYER	TEAM	POS	BYE
64.	Jaquiski Tarter	SF	S	4
65.	T.J. Watt	PIT	LB	7

QB Rankings

Quarterbacks	Team	Bye	Quarterbacks	Team	Bye
1. Patrick Mahomes	KC	12	21. Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	4
2. Deshaun Watson	HOU	10	22. Sam Darnold	NYJ	4
3. Andrew Luck	IND	6	23. Lamar Jackson	BAL	8
4. Aaron Rodgers	GB	11	24. Josh Allen	BUF	6
5. Baker Mayfield	CLE	7	25. Derek Carr	OAK	6
6. Carson Wentz	PHI	10	26. Nick Foles	JAC	10
7. Jameis Winston	TB	7	27. Matthew Stafford	DET	5
8. Matt Ryan	ATL	9	28. Marcus Mariota	TEN	11
9. Russell Wilson	SEA	11	29. Eli Manning	NYG	11
10. Cam Newton	CAR	7	30. Josh Rosen	MIA	5
11. Jared Goff	LAR	9	31. Joe Flacco	DEN	10
12. Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	7	32. Case Keenum	WAS	10
13. Kyler Murray	ARI	12	33. Dwayne Haskins	WAS	10
14. Tom Brady	NE	10	34. Ryan Tannehill	TEN	11
15. Drew Brees	NO	9	35. Ryan Fitzpatrick	MIA	5
16. Dak Prescott	DAL	8	36. Nick Mullens	SF	4
17. Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	6	37. Nate Sudfeld	PHI	10
18. Philip Rivers	LAC	12	38. DeShone Kizer	GB	11
19. Kirk Cousins	MIN	12	39. Blaine Gabbert	TB	7
20. Andy Dalton	CIN	9	40. Will Grier	CAR	7

Average Depth of Throw

At Pro Football Focus, our game analysts are constantly creating new statistical categories in hopes of maximizing the viewing public's understanding of the game. In 2007, we began tracking the depth of each pass. When examining quarterback tendencies, many will refer to yards per attempt, but it's important to realize that "YPA" can be severely distorted by completion percentage and YAC (yards after catch). This is where Average Depth of Throw (aDOT) comes into play. Proven to be significantly more predictable on a year-to-year basis, aDOT tracks only the distance downfield each pass travels before it is complete, incomplete or intercepted. Quarterbacks with high aDOT marks generally take more chances, which will lead to more of the coveted big plays, but also to a lower completion rate and additional interceptions. Quarterbacks with lower aDOT tendencies are more conservative, settling for short completions while avoiding costly turnovers.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each quarterback who dropped back to pass at least 100 times during the 2018 season. To maximize our sample size, we include playoff data.

RK	Quarterback	Team	QB	aDOT	RK	Quarterback	Team	QB	aDOT
1.	Josh Allen	BUF	396	11.45	21.	Andrew Luck	IND	757	8.32
2.	Jameis Winston	TB	443	11.22	22.	Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	713	8.11
3.	Ryan Fitzpatrick	TB	285	10.80	23.	Case Keenum	DEN	633	8.10
4.	Sam Darnold	NYJ	460	9.85	24.	Carson Wentz	PHI	448	8.05
5.	Russell Wilson	SEA	538	9.75	25.	Tom Brady	NE	723	8.05
6.	Patrick Mahomes	KC	722	9.60	26.	Brock Osweiler	MIA	200	7.98
7.	Baker Mayfield	CLE	531	9.60	27.	Marcus Mariota	TEN	409	7.87
8.	Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	544	9.37	28.	Dak Prescott	DAL	680	7.84
9.	Joe Flacco	BAL	400	9.32	29.	Kirk Cousins	MIN	669	7.84
10.	Jared Goff	LAR	729	9.23	30.	Eli Manning	NYG	627	7.82
11.	Aaron Rodgers	GB	681	9.21	31.	Drew Brees	NO	592	7.72
12.	Matt Ryan	ATL	669	9.23	32.	Blake Bortles	JAC	476	7.68
13.	Deshaun Watson	HOU	685	8.89	33.	Cam Newton	CAR	531	7.57
14.	Andy Dalton	CIN	398	8.88	34.	Nick Mullens	SF	292	7.54
15.	Lamar Jackson	BAL	243	8.88	35.	Nick Foles	PHI	278	7.43
16.	Josh Rosen	ARI	453	8.80	36.	C.J. Beathard	SF	198	7.33
17.	Philip Rivers	LAC	632	8.73	37.	Derek Carr	OAK	612	7.14
18.	Jeff Driskel	CIN	203	8.64	38.	Matthew Stafford	DET	608	7.09
19.	Alex Smith	WAS	374	8.57	39.	Cody Kessler	JAC	169	6.79
20.	Ryan Tannehill	MIA	318	8.49					



Carson Wentz

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Carson Wentz, Philadelphia Eagles Wentz tore his ACL in 2017 and faced a short turnaround in order to be back for the '18 season. He sat out the first two games before returning. He was clearly not 100 percent and then suffered a back injury that eventually cut his season short in Week 14. In April, Wentz said the stress fracture in his back was still healing. At this point, Wentz is clearly an injury risk.

2. Marcus Mariota, Tennessee Titans In his four years in the NFL, Mariota has not played a full season. In 2018, the biggest issue was a stinger that caused nerve damage. He also had a sprained shoulder and other injuries that affected his play. The Titans acquired Ryan Tannehill as a backup.

3. Jimmy Garoppolo, San Francisco 49ers Garoppolo tore his ACL in Week 3 and is on track to return for the start of the 2019 season. He'll have had nearly a full year to recover, and while it's not an easy injury to come back from, he is only 27 years old. Hopefully for fantasy owners, he'll be able to get through a full season healthy.

4. Lamar Jackson, Baltimore Ravens Jackson played all 16 games in his rookie season but was the starter for only seven of those games. Jackson's style of play involves a lot of running the ball, and mobile quarterbacks are often an injury risk. He will likely be on this list every year.

5. Cam Newton, Carolina Panthers Newton suffered a shoulder injury during the 2018 season and tried to play through it. He eventually had offseason surgery but should be good to go for Week 1. However, Newton seems to suffer some sort of ailment each year. His playing style lends itself to injuries, but he's managed to play through most of them — so far.

6. Ben Roethlisberger, Pittsburgh Steelers Even though Roethlisberger played all 16 games in 2018, he's still an injury risk. Roethlisberger is 37 years old, and he's suffered a number of injuries over the years. He's dealt with knee issues in the past as well as a rib issue in 2018.

7. Tom Brady, New England Patriots Brady will be 42 at the start of the 2019 season, which is already older than Peyton Manning was when he retired. Brady has been fairly healthy throughout his career, but playing football against guys two decades younger is going to be tough.

8. Philip Rivers, Los Angeles Chargers Rivers hasn't missed a game since 2006. However, he will turn 38 during the season, and aging quarterbacks are an injury risk. Rivers doesn't move around, but even a pocket quarterback is at risk for injury.

9. Andrew Luck, Indianapolis Colts After suffering a shoulder injury in 2015, Luck returned the following season. The shoulder still wasn't quite right, and he had surgery in January 2017. However, he couldn't get healthy and missed all of the 2017 season. In 2018, he played all 16 games and looked very good. However, that shoulder is still a concern for fantasy owners.

10. Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints Brees is 40 years old but has been healthy throughout his career and isn't a classic injury risk. However, his age has to concern fantasy owners. Brees isn't mobile (22 rushing yards in 2018), and one wrong hit could keep him out for a few games or more.

RB Rankings

Running Backs	Team	Bye	Running Backs	Team	Bye
1. Saquon Barkley	NYG	11	41. Kareem Hunt	CLE	7
2. Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	8	42. Jalen Richard	OAK	6
3. Christian McCaffrey	CAR	7	43. D'Onta Foreman	HOU	10
4. Alvin Kamara	NO	9	44. Peyton Barber	TB	7
5. Todd Gurley	LAR	9	45. Carlos Hyde	KC	12
6. James Conner	PIT	7	46. Frank Gore	BUF	6
7. Joe Mixon	CIN	9	47. Kalen Ballage	MIA	5
8. David Johnson	ARI	12	48. C.J. Anderson	DET	5
9. Le'Veon Bell	NYJ	4	49. Ito Smith	ATL	9
10. Melvin Gordon	LAC	12	50. Duke Johnson	CLE	7
11. Nick Chubb	CLE	7	51. Chris Thompson	WAS	10
12. Aaron Jones	GB	11	52. Matt Breida	SF	4
13. Leonard Fournette	JAC	10	53. Giovani Bernard	CIN	9
14. Dalvin Cook	MIN	12	54. Jordan Howard	PHI	10
15. Devonta Freeman	ATL	9	55. Jamaal Williams	GB	11
16. Derrick Henry	TEN	11	56. Devin Singletary	BUF	6
17. Josh Jacobs	OAK	6	57. Mike Davis	CHI	6
18. Mark Ingram	BAL	8	58. Alexander Mattison	MIN	12
19. Marlon Mack	IND	6	59. Jerick McKinnon	SF	4
20. Kerryon Johnson	DET	5	60. Damien Harris	NE	10
21. Chris Carson	SEA	11	61. Jaylen Samuels	PIT	7
22. Sony Michel	NE	10	62. Jay Ajayi	FA	
23. Kenyan Drake	MIA	5	63. Kenneth Dixon	BAL	8
24. Damien Williams	KC	12	64. Ty Montgomery	NYJ	4
25. Phillip Lindsay	DEN	10	65. Devontae Booker	DEN	10
26. James White	NE	10	66. Malcolm Brown	LAR	9
27. Lamar Miller	HOU	10	67. Adrian Peterson	WAS	10
28. Tarik Cohen	CHI	6	68. Wayne Gallman	NYG	11
29. Derrius Guice	WAS	10	69. Rex Burkhead	NE	10
30. Tevin Coleman	SF	4	70. Alfred Blue	JAC	10
31. Austin Ekeler	LAC	12	71. Dexter Williams	GB	11
32. Dion Lewis	TEN	11	72. Justice Hill	BAL	8
33. Latavius Murray	NO	9	73. Darrell Henderson	LAR	9
34. David Montgomery	CHI	6	74. Tony Pollard	DAL	8
35. Rashaad Penny	SEA	11	75. Myles Gaskin	MIA	5
36. Royce Freeman	DEN	10	76. Chase Edmonds	ARI	12
37. Miles Sanders	PHI	10	77. Jordan Wilkins	IND	6
38. Ronald Jones	TB	7	78. Spencer Ware	IND	6
39. LeSean McCoy	BUF	6	79. Kyle Juszczyk	SF	4
40. Nyheim Hines	IND	6	80. Chris Warren	OAK	6

Workload Watch

Touches Per Game,
3-year vs. 2-year

Touch/Game, 3-yr	TPG	TCH	GP	Touch/Game, 2-yr	TPG	TCH	GP
1. Le'Veon Bell	27.5	742	27	1. Le'Veon Bell	27.1	406	15
2. Ezekiel Elliott	25.1	1,003	40	2. Ezekiel Elliott	26.0	649	25
3. Todd Gurley	21.8	979	45	3. Todd Gurley	22.7	658	29
4. David Johnson	21.2	698	33	4. Leonard Fournette	21.9	459	21
5. Melvin Gordon	21.0	862	41	5. Melvin Gordon	20.3	567	28
6. Lamar Miller	18.4	808	44	6. Kareem Hunt	19.7	532	27
7. LeSean McCoy	18.3	825	45	7. David Johnson	19.1	325	17
8. Jordan Howard	18.1	850	47	8. LeSean McCoy	18.0	541	30
9. Jay Ajayi	17.2	569	33	9. Chris Carson	17.9	323	18
10. Carlos Hyde	16.9	725	43	10. Jordan Howard	17.8	569	32
11. Devonta Freeman	16.6	532	32	11. Joe Mixon	17.4	488	28
12. Frank Gore	16.5	759	46	12. Dalvin Cook	17.2	258	15
13. Adrian Peterson	16.5	478	29	13. Lamar Miller	17.0	509	30
14. Mark Ingram	15.9	698	44	14. Adrian Peterson	16.8	438	26
15. Isaiah Crowell	14.1	636	45	15. Christian McCaffrey	16.3	523	32



Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. LeSean McCoy, Buffalo Bills McCoy missed time with both a concussion and a hamstring injury in 2018. Overall it was an ineffective season for McCoy. He'll be 31 at the start of this season and is already looking at some sort of timeshare with Frank Gore, T.J. Yeldon and possibly rookie Devin Singletary. McCoy's not just an injury risk; he's an opportunity risk as well.

2. Melvin Gordon, Los Angeles Chargers Gordon suffered a knee injury and ended up missing three games during the fantasy playoffs. In his four seasons in the NFL, he's played all 16 games only once. The MCL injury isn't one to be concerned with, but as an every-down back, Gordon is going to get banged up. Since he's already been prone to injury, he's someone to keep an eye on.

3. Leonard Fournette, Jacksonville Jaguars Fournette suffered a hamstring injury in 2018 that he just couldn't get right. He ended up missing eight games; he tried to come back in Week 4 and re-aggravated the injury. After the Week 9 bye, Fournette was able to return and finished the season, although he wasn't very productive. Fournette has missed 11 games in his first two seasons, so chances are he's likely to miss some time at some point in 2019.

4. Devonta Freeman, Atlanta Falcons Fantasy owners who drafted Freeman in the first round were sorely disappointed with the two games he played in 2018. Foot and groin injuries cost him most of the season, and he also dealt with a knee injury. He should probably be considered a prime injury risk at this point.

5. Todd Gurley, Los Angeles Rams While the Rams insisted Gurley was healthy at the end of the season and into the playoffs, it was clear that he wasn't. He missed Weeks 16 and 17 with a knee injury and was ineffective in the playoffs, including being a virtual no-show in the Super Bowl loss. Gurley did not have surgery after the season, but the lack of definitive answers from him and the Rams regarding his knee should not be ignored come draft day.

6. Derrius Guice, Washington Redskins Guice tore his ACL in the preseason and has yet to play a snap in a regular-season NFL game. The Redskins still believe in him, but Adrian Peterson is back after leading the team in rushing last season. Guice was durable in college, and he's had plenty of time to rehab his knee. He should be OK, but it's something to keep an eye on.

7. Jerick McKinnon, San Francisco 49ers After tearing his ACL in the preseason, McKinnon missed the entire 2018 season. He should be on track to return for Week 1, but the 49ers also have Matt Breida, and they signed Tevin Coleman. For fantasy owners, this running back situation is a mess.

8. Marlon Mack, Indianapolis Colts In his first season as the starter, Mack played in just 12 games as he missed time due to an assortment of injuries — hamstring, ankle, foot and a concussion. He then suffered a hip injury in the divisional round loss to Kansas City. It's tough to trust a running back who is banged up all the time.

9. Le'Veon Bell, New York Jets After sitting out the 2018 season, Bell is back and expected to carry the load for the Jets. He's only 27, but there's no guarantee he will return to form right away after being out for an entire year. He has dealt with some injuries during his career, and fantasy owners who draft Bell need to be a little wary of him.

10. Jay Ajayi, Free Agent Ajayi tore his ACL in Week 5 last season and was still unsigned as of late May. He's been rumored as an option for a few teams, but this could be a case where his injury is even more of a concern for an NFL team than it is for fantasy owners.

WR Rankings

Wide Receivers	Team	Bye	Wide Receivers	Team	Bye
1. Julio Jones	ATL	9	46. Albert Wilson	MIA	5
2. Odell Beckham Jr.	CLE	7	47. Donte Moncrief	PIT	7
3. JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	7	48. DeSean Jackson	PHI	10
4. Davante Adams	GB	11	49. Jamison Crowder	NYJ	4
5. Michael Thomas	NO	9	50. Taylor Gabriel	CHI	6
6. DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	10	51. Doug Baldwin	SEA	11
7. T.Y. Hilton	IND	6	52. Emmanuel Sanders	DEN	10
8. Antonio Brown	OAK	6	53. Marquise Lee	JAC	10
9. Robert Woods	LAR	9	54. Mecole Hardman	KC	12
10. Mike Evans	TB	7	55. N'Keal Harry	NE	10
11. Adam Thielen	MIN	12	56. DeVante Parker	MIA	5
12. Brandin Cooks	LAR	9	57. Will Fuller	HOU	10
13. Keenan Allen	LAC	12	58. Travis Benjamin	LAC	12
14. A.J. Green	CIN	9	59. M. Valdes-Scantling	GB	11
15. Stefon Diggs	MIN	12	60. Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	9
16. Amari Cooper	DAL	8	61. Tre'Quan Smith	NO	9
17. Julian Edelman	NE	10	62. John Brown	BUF	6
18. Sammy Watkins	KC	12	63. Michael Gallup	DAL	8
19. Kenny Golladay	DET	5	64. James Washington	PIT	7
20. Tyler Boyd	CIN	9	65. Trey Quinn	WAS	10
21. Tyler Lockett	SEA	11	66. Anthony Miller	CHI	6
22. Chris Godwin	TB	7	67. Geronimo Allison	GB	11
23. Cooper Kupp	LAR	9	68. Paul Richardson	WAS	10
24. Alshon Jeffery	PHI	10	69. John Ross	CIN	9
25. Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	5	70. Randall Cobb	DAL	8
26. DJ Moore	CAR	7	71. Josh Doctson	WAS	10
27. Robby Anderson	NYJ	4	72. Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	4
28. Sterling Shepard	NYG	11	73. Adam Humphries	TEN	11
29. Christian Kirk	ARI	12	74. Marquise Brown	BAL	8
30. Dede Westbrook	JAC	10	75. Robert Foster	BUF	6
31. Corey Davis	TEN	11	76. Andy Isabella	ARI	12
32. Tyrell Williams	OAK	6	77. Justin Watson	TB	7
33. Courtland Sutton	DEN	10	78. D.K. Metcalf	SEA	11
34. Dante Pettis	SF	4	79. Marquise Goodwin	SF	4
35. Allen Robinson	CHI	6	80. Rashard Higgins	CLE	7
36. Jarvis Landry	CLE	7	81. Nelson Agholor	PHI	10
37. Calvin Ridley	ATL	9	82. Cole Beasley	BUF	6
38. Mike Williams	LAC	12	83. Willie Snead	BAL	8
39. Golden Tate	NYG	11	84. Demaryius Thomas	NE	10
40. Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	12	85. Zay Jones	BUF	6
41. Keke Coutee	HOU	10	86. Ryan Grant	OAK	6
42. Devin Funchess	IND	6	87. A.J. Brown	TEN	11
43. Curtis Samuel	CAR	7	88. Tim Patrick	DEN	10
44. Mohamed Sanu	ATL	9	89. Demarcus Robinson	KC	12
45. Kenny Stills	MIA	5	90. DaeSean Hamilton	DEN	10

Average Depth of Target

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when your teammates are gushing over Joe Schmo's 23.5 YPR thanks to one fluky bubble screen gone right, you'll see his 5.0 aDOT and know he's not the deep threat he appears to be.

Shown here are the top 20 and bottom 20 aDOT marks from the 2018 season. Only wide receivers with 40-plus targets are shown, and playoff data is included.

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Doug Baldwin, Seattle Seahawks Baldwin slogged his way through 13 games in 2018 but was injured for most of them. In the offseason, he had knee, shoulder and groin surgeries. Forget playing 16 games — it's possible Baldwin's career is over.

2. Will Fuller, Houston Texans In three seasons, Fuller has yet to play all 16 games. He broke his collarbone and ribs in 2017. Last season, he had a knee scope and then tore his ACL in Week 8. He's on track to return for the beginning of the 2019 season, but someone who has missed 17 games in a three-year span is a risk.

3. Emmanuel Sanders, Denver Broncos Sanders tore his Achilles tendon in Week 13 and had surgery. He's 32 years old, and there's no guarantee he will be ready to go by Week 1. Coming back from an Achilles injury is not easy, and this puts him at risk for additional leg/knee/ankle/hamstring injuries.

4. A.J. Green, Cincinnati Bengals Green played in just nine games in 2018 and finished with a career-low 694 receiving yards. In December, he had surgery to repair torn ligaments in his toe. Green will be 31 at the start of the season, and while his foot should heal, he is at risk for a setback.

5. Cooper Kupp, Los Angeles Rams Kupp suffered an MCL sprain that cost him two games, and then he tore his ACL in Week 10. Both injuries were on the same knee. Kupp had surgery and is on track to be ready for Week 1, but a player with a history of knee injuries is an injury risk.

6. Demaryius Thomas, New England Patriots After tearing his Achilles tendon in Week 16, Thomas had surgery and has been recovering. The Patriots signed him, although he may start the season on the PUP list, depending on how his rehab goes. He's 31, and an Achilles injury is tough to come back from.

7. Marvin Jones Jr., Detroit Lions Jones was on his way to having a decent season when he injured his knee in Week 10. The Lions put him on injured reserve in Week 13, ending his season. He did not have surgery, so he should be fine for the start of training camp, but he is certainly at risk for future knee injuries.

8. Odell Beckham Jr., Cleveland Browns Beckham's 2014 rookie season was impacted by a hamstring injury, and ankle injuries cost him all but four games in 2017. Last year, a quad injury caused him to miss the final four games. The soft tissue injuries are a concern moving forward for OBJ.

9. Larry Fitzgerald, Arizona Cardinals Fitzgerald will be 36 at the start of the season, and although he's been relatively healthy throughout his career, his age makes him an injury concern.

10. Sammy Watkins, Kansas City Chiefs Watkins has played all 16 games just once, his rookie year in 2014. A series of foot issues and hamstring injuries have seen him miss a total of 18 games over the last four seasons.

Wide Receiver Top 20 (min 40 targets)

RK	Wide Receiver	Team	Targ	aDOT
1.	Robert Foster	BUF	44	20.95
2.	DeSean Jackson	TB	72	20.82
3.	Ted Ginn Jr.	NO	42	18.17
4.	Robby Anderson	NYJ	87	17.93
5.	Kenny Stills	MIA	60	17.50
6.	John Brown	BAL	94	17.21
7.	Mike Evans	TB	135	17.10
8.	David Moore	SEA	50	16.88
9.	Kelvin Benjamin	BUF/KC	64	16.88
10.	Tyreek Hill	KC	145	16.62
11.	Courtland Sutton	DEN	79	16.53
12.	John Ross	CIN	55	16.47
13.	Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	59	15.78
14.	Mike Williams	LAC	81	15.60
15.	Josh Doctson	WAS	75	15.39
16.	Will Fuller	HOU	42	14.95
17.	Tyler Lockett	SEA	71	14.94
18.	Antonio Callaway	CLE	78	14.71
19.	Michael Gallup	DAL	81	14.58
20.	Marquise Goodwin	SF	41	14.56

Wide Receiver Bottom 20 (min 40 targets)

RK	Wide Receiver	Team	Targ	aDOT
84.	Kendrick Bourne	SF	60	9.38
85.	Sammy Watkins	KC	69	9.35
86.	Seth Roberts	OAK	60	8.82
87.	Cooper Kupp	LAR	49	8.76
88.	DaeSean Hamilton	DEN	45	8.69
89.	Julian Edelman	NE	137	8.28
90.	Michael Thomas	NO	168	8.26
91.	Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	62	8.23
92.	Mohamed Sanu	ATL	91	8.18
93.	Randall Cobb	GB	57	8.02
94.	Danny Amendola	MIA	75	7.60
95.	Cole Beasley	DAL	90	7.44
96.	Golden Tate	DET/PHI	118	7.27
97.	Chester Rogers	IND	82	6.74
98.	Laquon Treadwell	MIN	47	6.17
99.	Adam Humphries	TB	103	6.03
100.	Jarius Wright	CAR	57	5.88
101.	Keke Coutee	HOU	52	5.48
102.	Bruce Ellington	HOU	42	4.93
103.	Ryan Switzer	PIT	44	3.39

TE Rankings

Tight Ends	Team	Bye	Tight Ends	Team	Bye
1. Travis Kelce	KC	12	26. Delanie Walker	TEN	12
2. Zach Ertz	PHI	10	27. Luke Willson	OAK	6
3. George Kittle	SF	4	28. Geoff Swaim	JAC	10
4. Hunter Henry	LAC	12	29. Gerald Everett	LAR	9
5. Evan Engram	NYG	11	30. Cameron Brate	TB	7
6. O.J. Howard	TB	7	31. Mark Andrews	BAL	8
7. Austin Hooper	ATL	9	32. Tyler Kroft	BUF	6
8. Jared Cook	NO	9	33. Charles Clay	ARI	12
9. Kyle Rudolph	MIN	12	34. Noah Fant	DEN	10
10. Eric Ebron	IND	6	35. Tyler Higbee	LAR	9
11. David Njoku	CLE	7	36. Greg Olsen	CAR	7
12. Chris Herndon	NYJ	4	37. Hayden Hurst	BAL	8
13. Jack Doyle	IND	6	38. Jesse James	DET	5
14. Vance McDonald	PIT	7	39. Vernon Davis	WAS	10
15. Trey Burton	CHI	6	40. Jonnu Smith	TEN	12
16. Jordan Reed	WAS	10	41. Ryan Griffin	HOU	10
17. T.J. Hockenson	DET	5	42. Nick Vannett	SEA	11
18. Mike Gesicki	MIA	5	43. Foster Moreau	OAK	6
19. Jimmy Graham	GB	11	44. C.J. Uzomah	CIN	9
20. Austin Seferian-Jenkins	NE	10	45. Josh Oliver	JAC	10
21. Ian Thomas	CAR	7	46. Ricky Seals-Jones	ARI	12
22. Dallas Goedert	PHI	10	47. Will Dissly	SEA	11
23. Tyler Eifert	CIN	9	48. Jace Sternberger	GB	11
24. Jeff Heuerman	DEN	10	49. Blake Jarwin	DAL	8
25. Jason Witten	DAL	8	50. Irv Smith Jr.	MIN	12

Average Depth of Target

Tracked by our game analysts at Pro Football Focus, Average Depth of Target (aDOT) is a better method of tracking the way NFL pass catchers are utilized. Basically an improved version of the popular and mainstream yards per reception (YPR) statistic, aDOT removes volatile YAC (yards after catch) from the equation, instead focusing only on the average distance the player is downfield on each target. Because we're analyzing targets and not receptions, our sample nearly doubles in size, which is key in developing predictable statistics. This season, when looking for a bye week fill-in, bold owners can take a chance on a tight end with a high aDOT in hopes of a big play or two. Risk-averse owners in PPR formats can nab a big man with a low aDOT, and thus higher catch potential.

Shown here are the aDOT marks for each tight end targeted at least 40 times during the 2018 season. To maximize our sample size, playoff data is included.

RK	Tight End	Team	Targ	aDOT	RK	Tight End	Team	Targ	aDOT
1.	Rob Gronkowski	NE	90	12.21	16.	Dallas Goedert	PHI	46	8.43
2.	O.J. Howard	TB	47	11.96	17.	Blake Jarwin	DAL	40	8.43
3.	Mark Andrews	BAL	55	10.91	18.	George Kittle	SF	128	7.89
4.	Eric Ebron	IND	122	10.89	19.	C.J. Uzomah	CIN	63	7.78
5.	Benjamin Watson	NO	45	10.73	20.	Zach Ertz	PHI	168	7.70
6.	Chris Herndon	NYJ	54	10.57	21.	Kyle Rudolph	MIN	76	7.54
7.	Ricky Seals-Jones	ARI	66	10.21	22.	Gerald Everett	LAR	53	7.38
8.	Jimmy Graham	GB	83	9.86	23.	Ian Thomas	CAR	47	6.98
9.	Ryan Griffin	HOU	47	9.57	24.	Austin Hooper	ATL	87	6.92
10.	Travis Kelce	KC	154	9.47	25.	Jordan Reed	WAS	78	6.67
11.	David Njoku	CLE	83	9.31	26.	Nick Vannett	SEA	41	6.32
12.	Cameron Brate	TB	48	9.17	27.	Vance McDonald	PIT	67	5.99
13.	Trey Burton	CHI	73	8.96	28.	Jeff Heuerman	DEN	44	5.98
14.	Jared Cook	OAK	99	8.72	29.	Evan Engram	NYG	63	5.54
15.	Antonio Gates	LAC	55	8.58					

Top 10 Injury Concerns

1. Tyler Eifert, Cincinnati Bengals The definition of injury prone, Eifert has dealt with back and neck injuries, and last season he broke his ankle in Week 4. The fracture required surgery, and Eifert has been going through yet another rehab. He hopes to be ready for training camp, but fantasy owners have to be wary of a player who has played a total of 14 games in the past three seasons combined.

2. Greg Olsen, Carolina Panthers Olsen was as reliable as they came at tight end until 2017, when he first suffered the foot injury that continued to plague him through '18. He had offseason surgery and dealt with rumors about retirement. All signs point to him returning, but he can't be counted on for 16 games.

3. Jordan Reed, Washington Redskins Reed has never played more than 14 games in a season. He played in 13 games in 2018, which was a vast improvement over the six he managed in '17. Reed has dealt with a lot of toe, foot and ankle injuries.

4. Delanie Walker, Tennessee Titans Walker broke his ankle in Week 1 and had to have surgery to repair it. He will be 35 at the start of the season, and there have been reports that his recovery is taking longer than expected. It was a brutal injury, and Walker may not be the same player he was before.

5. Jason Witten, Dallas Cowboys After retiring from football to be a broadcaster, Witten is now back with the Cowboys. He will be 37 at the start of the season and hasn't played since 2017. While he has missed just one game in his 15-year career, a year off and his age make him an injury risk. Fantasy owners also should be aware that Witten likely will only play a limited number of snaps.

6. Jack Doyle, Indianapolis Colts A hip injury cost Doyle Weeks 3-7, but he returned — and then suffered a kidney injury. While the kidney injury required surgery, the hip injury is more concerning. He had surgery on that in February and should be fine for the season, but re-injury is always a possibility.

7. Vance McDonald, Pittsburgh Steelers Fantasy owners will remember 2018, when McDonald played in 15 games. That was a vast improvement compared to 2017 (10 games) and '16 (11). In his six seasons, McDonald has yet to play in all 16 games. He missed the season opener last year because of a foot injury, so he's definitely a guy you need to keep an eye on during training camp.

8. O.J. Howard, Tampa Bay Buccaneers In his two seasons in the NFL, Howard has played in 24 of a possible 32 games. Ankle injuries have ended both seasons prematurely, but he also suffered a knee injury in 2018. Howard's fantasy arrow is pointed up, but the odds that he misses a game or two are also high.

9. Evan Engram, New York Giants Engram missed games with a hamstring injury and also a knee injury in 2018. He's also suffered concussions over the past two seasons. He played 15 games in his rookie season but only 11 in 2018. With Odell Beckham Jr. gone, the Giants will need to lean on Engram more. However, his body may not be able to handle a bigger workload.

10. Hunter Henry, Los Angeles Chargers Henry tore his ACL in May. He did return for a brief appearance in the playoffs and should be good to go by the time Week 1 rolls around. He'll likely be among the first tight ends taken in fantasy drafts, but just keep in mind that he is returning from a serious knee injury.



Travis Kelce

DST Rankings

Defense/Special Teams



Myles Garrett

Going UP



Cleveland Browns The Browns have a few new offensive weapons, most notably Odell Beckham Jr., but their defense also will be new and different — starting with defensive coordinator Steve Wilks, who is known to be aggressive and loves blitz packages. Cleveland also added Sheldon Richardson and Olivier Vernon to a pass rush that features Myles Garrett. The Browns finished in the lower half of the league standings in sacks with 37 last season, but that will likely increase in 2019. The team spent its first four picks on defensive players, including LSU cornerback Greedy Williams in the second round, whom many expected to go in the first. Cleveland appears to be a team on the rise, and it's not just because of what is happening with the offense.

Los Angeles Chargers The Chargers were a middle-of-the-pack fantasy defense last season, but this year that could change. The key will be getting a healthy Joey Bosa back to anchor the pass rush. Last season, Bosa missed nine games because of injuries and saw his sack total fall from 12.5 to 5.5. Los Angeles also wasn't able to create as many turnovers in 2018 (20 total), compared to the previous season (27). Sacks, interceptions and fumble recoveries are the areas D/STs really make their living in fantasy. Even with some personnel changes, there's no reason to believe the Chargers D/ST can't improve upon its fantasy production this season, provided Bosa stays on the field.

Philadelphia Eagles The Eagles had an injury-plagued season on both sides of the ball. For the defense, the turnovers just weren't there (17 in 2018 vs. 31 in '17), and neither were the big plays. Philadelphia didn't produce a single defensive or special teams TD last season compared to five in 2017. Simply with better health, the Eagles D/ST has a chance to bounce back, and the defensive line also got a boost when the team signed Malik Jackson and brought back Vinny Curry in free agency, as well as adding depth to the linebacking corps and secondary. With more reinforcements and a few more breaks in the health department, this D/ST may be ready to take flight again.

Green Bay Packers The Packers were busy this offseason, remaking what had been become a porous and aging defense. In free agency, the big additions were linebackers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith as well as safety Adrian Amos. In the draft, they added Michigan edge rusher Rashan Gary and Maryland safety Darnell Savage. The pieces will have to come together, but Green Bay's revamped pass rush and reinforced secondary could pay off in fantasy at some point this season.

Defense/Special Teams	Bye	Defense/Special Teams	Bye
1. Chicago	6	17. Tampa Bay	7
2. L.A. Chargers	12	18. Washington	10
3. Minnesota	12	19. Buffalo	6
4. Kansas City	12	20. Dallas	8
5. Jacksonville	10	21. Cleveland	7
6. Philadelphia	10	22. Detroit	5
7. Denver	10	23. Atlanta	9
8. Houston	10	24. Cincinnati	9
9. L.A. Rams	9	25. Miami	5
10. New England	10	26. N.Y. Jets	4
11. Indianapolis	6	27. Tennessee	11
12. New Orleans	9	28. Green Bay	11
13. Pittsburgh	7	29. N.Y. Giants	11
14. Arizona	12	30. San Francisco	4
15. Baltimore	8	31. Seattle	11
16. Carolina	7	32. Oakland	6

Going DOWN



Baltimore Ravens Baltimore finished fifth in fantasy points (Athlon scoring) last season. However, this year's Ravens defense will look completely different as the team suffered heavy losses in free agency. Linebackers C.J. Mosley (Jets), Terrell Suggs

(Cardinals) and Za'Darius Smith (Packers), and safety Eric Weddle (Rams) are among the departures. Those are a lot of big shoes to fill, and even though Baltimore signed former Seattle All-Pro safety Earl Thomas, he's just one man and will be coming back from a broken leg. The Ravens have a reputation for playing solid defense, but there are too many holes to trust them as a must-start in fantasy this season.

New England Patriots It may surprise you, but the Patriots D/ST finished fourth in fantasy points last season. New England has always been opportunistic on that side of the ball, and 2018 was no different with 28 takeaways (including 18 INTs) and four defensive/special teams TDs. But the defending Super Bowl champions have seen some key players go, namely sacks leader Trey Flowers and kickoff returner Cordarrelle Patterson. Bill Belichick's teams are famous for their ability to reload, but that may not be the case fantasy-wise for the D/ST this season. Proceed with caution.

Oakland Raiders The Raiders can't do any worse after finishing last in fantasy scoring among D/STs in 2018. But it's also hard to see them faring much better. Oakland has made some big additions on offense this offseason (hello Antonio Brown), but plenty of people questioned their pick of Clemson defensive end Clelin Ferrell so early. At best, this defense remains a work in progress.

Chicago Bears We are not saying not to draft the Bears D/ST this season — just to be wary of regression. After all, there's only one direction for the No. 1 D/ST to go. Health will be a key, of course, but with changes at coordinator (former Colts head coach Chuck Pagano replacing Vic Fangio) and the loss of two pieces in the secondary (Adrian Amos, Bryce Callahan), don't be surprised if Chicago's defense takes a step or two back this year. It doesn't mean the Bears will fall off a cliff, but replicating all of last year's numbers (such as 50 sacks, 27 INTs) is a tall task in and of itself.



Leonard Floyd

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2019 AFC

Predictions



AFC Playoff Seedings

1. New England
2. Kansas City
3. Indianapolis
4. Pittsburgh
5. L.A. Chargers
6. Cleveland

Wild Card

Indianapolis over Cleveland
L.A. Chargers over Pittsburgh

Divisional Round

Kansas City over Indianapolis
L.A. Chargers over New England

AFC Championship

Kansas City over L.A. Chargers

Super Bowl LIV

Kansas City over Chicago

Athlon Sports AFC Power Rankings

1. Kansas City
2. L.A. Chargers
3. New England
4. Indianapolis
5. Pittsburgh
6. Cleveland
7. Tennessee
8. Houston
9. Baltimore
10. Jacksonville
11. N.Y. Jets
12. Buffalo
13. Cincinnati
14. Denver
15. Oakland
16. Miami

AFC EAST

1. NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

The P-Men have some flaws — but they also have Tom Brady and Bill Belichick.

2. NEW YORK JETS

Unlike in Miami, Adam Gase has his franchise quarterback in place.

3. BUFFALO BILLS

The Bills will be stout on defense again; the offense needs to catch up.

4. MIAMI DOLPHINS

Josh Rosen has one year to show that he's the right man for the job in South Florida.

AFC SOUTH

1. INDIANAPOLIS COLTS

The Colts are set up to be a contender for the foreseeable future.

2. TENNESSEE TITANS

Few quarterbacks will be under the microscope as much as Marcus Mariota in 2019.

3. HOUSTON TEXANS

A much more difficult schedule awaits the defending AFC South champs.

4. JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS

The Jags could bounce back in a big way if Nick Foles plays well at quarterback.

AFC NORTH

1. PITTSBURGH STEELERS

The Steelers are banking on a big dose of addition by subtraction.

2. CLEVELAND BROWNS

The Browns boast the most talented team in the AFC North. Now it's time to win.

3. BALTIMORE RAVENS

Can the Ravens run to success in what has become a pass-happy league?

4. CINCINNATI BENGALS

Zac Taylor has inherited a roster with talent; now the Bengals must stay healthy.

AFC WEST

1. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

Patrick Mahomes is the most entertaining player in the NFL.

2. L.A. CHARGERS

The Bolts might not win the AFC West — but they could win the Super Bowl.

3. DENVER BRONCOS

Joe Flacco is next in line at quarterback — until Drew Lock takes over.

4. OAKLAND RAIDERS

The Raiders have upgraded their roster in Year 2 of the Jon Gruden era.



Sammy Watkins

AFC Coordinator Carousel

BALTIMORE RAVENS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Marty Mornhinweg

New: Greg Roman

A branch on the Jim Harbaugh tree, Roman has worked for Harbaugh's brother John since 2017. He'll hold a job he previously held in Buffalo (2015-16) and San Francisco (2011-14, under Jim Harbaugh).

CINCINNATI BENGALS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Bill Lazor

New: Brian Callahan

The son of former Raiders and Nebraska coach Bill Callahan assumes control of an NFL offense for the first time after three seasons as a quarterbacks coach.

CINCINNATI BENGALS *Defensive Coordinator*

Old: Teryl Austin

New: Lou Anarumo

Anarumo has worked with defensive backs for the entirety of his NFL career aside from a brief stint as interim coordinator in Miami in 2015.

CLEVELAND BROWNS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Freddie Kitchens (interim)

New: Todd Monken

Monken was the offensive coordinator in Tampa last season, where his offense ranked third in the NFL in yardage. He'll have plenty of weapons in Cleveland.

CLEVELAND BROWNS *Defensive Coordinator*

Old: Gregg Williams

New: Steve Wilks

Fresh off a failed one-year audition as Cardinals head coach (3-13), Wilks will try to revitalize his career with this season's most intriguing team.

DENVER BRONCOS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Bill Musgrave

New: Rich Scangarello

Of Scangarello's 24 years in coaching, only four have come at the NFL level, although he did spend the last two seasons coaching quarterbacks in San Francisco and coaxed surprising production from emergency fill-in Nick Mullens.

DENVER BRONCOS *Defensive Coordinator*

Old: Joe Woods

New: Ed Donatell

Donatell embarks on his third separate

stint with the Broncos; he was Denver's secondary coach from 1995-99 and again from 2009-10. He's coming off a successful three-year run as defensive backs coach in Chicago, where his unit helped the Bears lead the NFL in interceptions.

HOUSTON TEXANS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Bill O'Brien

New: Tim Kelly

O'Brien coordinated the offense in 2018 but has relinquished the title to Kelly, who has been on his staff in Houston since 2014, most recently as tight ends coach (2017-18). O'Brien will likely maintain his role as play caller, though.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Nathaniel Hackett

New: John DeFilippo

The veteran DeFilippo arrives after a single season as offensive coordinator in Minnesota, where his unit ranked 20th in total offense. A former QB coach in Philly, DeFilippo will be reunited with Nick Foles, who arrived in the offseason via free agency.

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS *Defensive Coordinator*

Old: Bob Sutton

New: Steve Spagnuolo

After a year out of coaching, the veteran Spagnuolo takes his blitz-happy defensive philosophy to a Super Bowl contender. He'll try to shore up the Chiefs' lone weakness: a defense that ranked 31st in 2018.

MIAMI DOLPHINS *Offensive Coordinator*

Old: Dowell Loggains

New: Chad O'Shea

After a full decade as wide receivers coach for Bill Belichick in New England, O'Shea gets his shot to run an offense for fellow Belichick disciple Brian Flores. His arrival coincides with that of new QB Josh Rosen.

MIAMI DOLPHINS *Defensive Coordinator*

Old: Matt Burke

New: Patrick Graham

Graham is another branch of the Bill Belichick tree, although he spent last season in Green Bay as linebackers coach and run game coordinator and the two years before that with the Giants. Graham was on Belichick's staff for seven seasons, the final two as linebackers coach (2014-15).

Offensive Player of the Year

Patrick Mahomes, QB, Kansas City

Defensive Player of the Year

Derwin James, S, L.A. Chargers

Comeback Player of the Year

Le'Veon Bell, RB, N.Y. Jets

Offensive Rookie of the Year

Josh Jacobs, RB, Oakland

Defensive Rookie of the Year

Josh Allen, OLB, Jacksonville

Coach of the Year

Freddie Kitchens, Cleveland

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Brian Flores

New: TBD

The reigning Super Bowl champs are looking for their third defensive coordinator in three seasons after losing Flores and Matt Patricia before him.

NEW YORK JETS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Jeremy Bates

New: Dowell Loggains

Loggains follows head coach Adam Gase from Miami to New York. Once ranked as the worst play caller in the NFL by ESPN, Loggains gets a fresh start with a franchise that could be on an upswing.

NEW YORK JETS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Kacy Rodgers

New: Gregg Williams

This is Williams' eighth stint as an NFL coordinator, the most recent coming in Cleveland, where he also served as interim head coach last year, going 5-3 over the season's final eight games.

TENNESSEE TITANS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Matt LaFleur

New: Arthur Smith

A native Tennessean, Smith has paid his dues with the franchise, starting as a defensive quality control coach in 2011 and slowly working his way up the org chart.



Buffalo BILLS

AFC East Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owners: Kim and Terry Pegula
President: Kim Pegula
General Manager: Brandon Beane
Assistant General Manager: Joe Schoen
Stadium: New Era Field (73,967)
Surface: AstroPlay
Website: www.buffalobills.com
Tickets: 877-BB-TICKS (228-4257)
Training Camp: St. John Fisher College (Pittsford, N.Y.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean McDermott
Record With Team: 15-17
Career Record: 15-17
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Daboll
Defensive Coordinator: Leslie Frazier
Special Teams Coordinator: Heath Farwell
Quarterbacks: Ken Dorsey
Running Backs: Kelly Skipper
Wide Receivers: Chad Hall
Tight Ends: Rob Boras
Offensive Line: Bobby Johnson
Defensive Line: Bill Teerlinck
Linebackers: Bob Babich
Defensive Backs: John Butler
Safeties: Bobby Babich

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)	
Sept. 15	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)	
Sept. 22	Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Sept. 29	New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
Oct. 6	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	
BYE								
Oct. 20	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Oct. 27	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)	
Nov. 3	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)	
Nov. 10	at Cleveland	1:00	7-9	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Nov. 17	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Nov. 24	Denver	1:00	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)	
Nov. 28	at Dallas (Thu.)	4:30	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)	
Dec. 8	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Dec. 15	at Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)	
Dec. 21/22	at New England	TBD	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
Dec. 29	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)	

After ending an epic 17-year playoff drought in 2017, the Bills reverted to their old ways last season, finishing 6-10. So why, then, is this “an exciting time to be a Buffalo Bill and a fan of the Buffalo Bills,” per head coach Sean McDermott? Because he and GM Brandon Beane have been patiently building a roster they believe can win for the long haul, adhering to a “process” they learned in Carolina. Part of that process entailed paying some serious dues last season in drafting a rookie quarterback in Josh Allen — and then playing him before they wanted to.

No matter what personnel moves the franchise made this offseason, and the number was dizzying, the future all depends on Allen’s continued positive development. The team’s No. 2 defense, its ranking a bit of a mirage given its inability to pressure opposing quarterbacks, was enhanced with the drafting of defensive tackle Ed Oliver in the first round.

“I think people can feel the direction of this team and the direction of this organization moving in the right direction,” McDermott says.

For his and Beane’s sake, it needs to be. This roster is 94 percent of their own making, and after two years, it’s time to see some results

OFFENSE Calling the Bills offense “anemic” last season was an insult to people suffering from anemia. Buffalo ranked 30th in total yards, 31st in passing yards, 20th in touchdowns, 31st in interceptions and 30th in points. Even the Bills’ No. 9 run game was deceiving with LeSean McCoy (three TDs, 3.2 yards per carry) having by far the worst season of his career and Allen’s 631 scrambling yards skewing reality. To put things in perspective, Buffalo had games in which it scored three, zero, five, six and nine points; had 10 games where it failed to hit 200 yards passing; and had six games where it failed to rush for 100 yards. Basically, an offense can’t play worse. Beane was so disgusted with his offense that he attacked that side of the ball like a hungry man at a 24-hour buffet during the offseason. Of the 19 unrestricted free agents he signed, 15 play offense.

Allen, the No. 7 overall pick in the 2018 draft, showed flashes that he could be the franchise QB the Bills have sought since the days of Jim Kelly. In his 11 starts, Allen’s arm strength was never questioned, though his accuracy (52.8 percent) was. His running ability was a major asset (eight TDs), and the Bills will continue to build on that aspect of his game. So how can Allen stay on an upward trajectory? For starters, unlike a year ago in Week 1, he has two very capable veteran backups in Derek Anderson and Matt Barkley.

Then comes protection. The Bills will likely have four new starters on their line. Center Mitch Morse, who protected Patrick Mahomes in Kansas City, is the only lock at his position. Spencer Long, Jon Feliciano, Ty Nsekhe, Quinton Spain and rookie second-round

pick Cody Ford will battle it out for the two guard spots and the right tackle job, with Dion Dawkins returning on the left side.

Allen will also have better receivers to throw to, after the addition of free agents John Brown, who adds speed and experience, and Cole Beasley, one of the league’s better slot men while in Dallas. Robert Foster was a bright spot as a rookie in 2018 and is an emerging deep threat. Zay Jones (seven touchdowns) had his best season but remains a complementary piece.

With the release of veteran Charles Clay, the starting tight end job is wide open for third-round pick Dawson Knox to seize. Collectively, the Bills still don’t



QB **JOSH ALLEN**



2018 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 9	at Baltimore	L	3-47
Sept. 16	L.A. Chargers	L	20-31
Sept. 23	at Minnesota	W	27-6
Sept. 30	at Green Bay	L	0-22
Oct. 7	Tennessee	W	13-12
Oct. 14	at Houston	L	13-20
Oct. 21	at Indianapolis	L	5-37
Oct. 29	New England	L	6-25
Nov. 4	Chicago	L	9-41
Nov. 11	at N.Y. Jets	W	41-10
Nov. 25	Jacksonville	W	24-21
Dec. 2	at Miami	L	17-21
Dec. 9	N.Y. Jets	L	23-27
Dec. 16	Detroit	W	14-13
Dec. 23	at New England	L	12-24
Dec. 30	Miami	W	42-17

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh Allen	320	169	2,074	10	12
Nathan Peterman	81	44	296	1	7
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Josh Allen	89	631	7.1	8	
LeSean McCoy	161	514	3.2	3	
Chris Ivory	115	385	3.3	1	
Marcus Murphy	52	250	4.8	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Zay Jones	56	652	11.6	7	
Robert Foster	27	541	20.0	3	
Kelvin Benjamin	23	354	15.4	1	
Jason Croom	22	259	11.8	1	

KICKING: Stephen Hauschka, 22-28 FGs, 25-26 PAT, 91 points

TACKLES: Tremaine Edmunds, 121; Jordan Poyer, 100

SACKS: Jerry Hughes, 7.0; Lorenzo Alexander, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Jordan Poyer, 4; Matt Milano, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	298.6	30	15
Rushing	124.0	9	5
Passing	174.6	31	16
Scoring	16.8	30	15
Third Down %	31.6	30	15
Punt Returns	6.7	21	15
Kick Returns	21.2	24	11
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	294.1	2	2
Rushing	114.9	16	7
Passing	179.2	1	1
Scoring	23.4	18	10
Interceptions	16	T7	5
Sacks	36	26	12
Turnover Differential	-5	T23	12

have a No. 1 receiving threat and will try and go about it by committee.

The same is true at running back, where Buffalo is hoping to get one more useful season out of McCoy, who turns 31 in July, and future Hall of Famer Frank Gore, 36, whose leadership the Bills value highly. Gore had a better year in 2018 (with the Dolphins) than McCoy. Frankly, McCoy needs a very good training camp to remain on the roster. Marcus Murphy, Jacksonville free agent T.J. Yeldon and rookie Devin Singletary, a 5'7" highlight reel at Florida Atlantic, are among many younger options should McCoy and Gore finally hit the wall.



TREMAINE EDMUNDS

DEFENSE McDermott, the architect of the Panthers' Super Bowl defense, put his stamp on this unit a year ago with a No. 2 overall ranking. Sure, there were some clunkers. But overall, the Bills' defense did its job, holding opponents to fewer than 100 yards rushing eight times and fewer than 200 yards passing 10 times, and 10 starters are back.

The retirement of six-time Pro Bowl defensive tackle Kyle Williams, the heart and soul of the locker room, was a major loss. But there are several players capable of filling the void, led by linebacker Lorenzo Alexander, entering his 13th season; defensive end Jerry Hughes, entering his 10th; and middle linebacker Tremaine Edmunds, just 20 and in his second season. "There's a lot of young talent here, and we're primed to do something special if guys really take advantage of this offseason coming up," Alexander says.

One big reason is adding another first-round draft pick to the mix. Oliver was selected ninth overall to play the 3-technique position, taking over the spot manned by Williams. Oliver joins Shaq Lawson (2016), Tre'Davious White (2017) and Edmunds (2018) as a fourth consecutive first-round pick on defense.

If there's an area for improvement for the Bills, it's with their pass rush; they notched just 36 sacks last year, ranking 26th. Oliver's quickness and push in the middle could be a major help. Hughes (47 career sacks) and Oliver are joined up front by space-eating nose man Star Lotulelei and end Trent Murphy, and there is ample depth with Lawson, Harrison Phillips and Jordan Phillips, who joined the Bills mid-year from Miami and was retained.

At linebacker, Edmunds had his growing pains but ultimately put together a very impressive rookie campaign, leading the team in tackles with 121 to go with two sacks and 12 passes defended. Alexander, 36, keeps defying time and chipped in 74 tackles and 6.5 sacks. Underrated Matt Milano returns to the weak-side spot from a leg injury.

The secondary remains one of the best in the NFL. White can be left alone to cover any team's No. 1 receiver, while free safety Jordan Poyer and strong safety Micah Hyde are smart, deep patrol men and willing run supporters. There was a revolving door at the corner opposite White but no shortage of candidates to secure the job full time, led by Levi Wallace, Taron Johnson, E.J. Gaines (a former starter who played last season for Cleveland) and free agent Kevin Johnson, a former first-round pick of the Houston Texans who is looking to shake a history of injuries and find a permanent home.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Stephen Hauschka, entering his 12th season, continues to perform at a high level. He converted 22-of-28 field goals (4-of-7 from beyond 50 yards) in 2018 and all but one of his extra points. He ranks 46th all-time in field goals made with 242. The Bills went through three punters a year ago before settling on Corey Bojorquez, who averaged 45.1 yards. Isaiah McKenzie is back to handle punt returns and is also in the mix to handle kickoffs with Marcus Murphy (24.9-yard average on 13 returns).

FINAL ANALYSIS After five games scoring in single digits, the Bills could have as many as eight new starters on offense. It's a fresh look and sorely needed. The keys are a new-look line jelling quickly and a deep passing game developing to take advantage of Allen's arm. The defense is good enough to take a team to the playoffs. Buffalo has missed 18 of the last 19 postseason parties, so it's not like there's the weight of expectations on McDermott. But time waits for no man in the NFL.



2019 VETERAN BILLS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
17 Allen, Josh	QB	6-5	237	1	Wyoming	D1a-18	D1a-Buf-18
3 Anderson, Derek	QB	6-6	235	14	Oregon State	FA-18	D6-Bal-05
5 Barkley, Matt	QB	6-2	234	6	USC	FA-18	D3-Phi-13
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
42 DiMarco, Patrick	FB	6-1	234	8	South Carolina	FA-17	FA-LAC-11
35 Ford, Keith	RB	5-10	219	1	Texas A&M	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
Gore, Frank	RB	5-9	212	14	Miami	FA-Mia-19	D3a-SF-05
25 McCoy, LeSean	RB	5-11	210	10	Pittsburgh	T-Phi-15	D2-Phi-09
45 Murphy, Marcus	RB	5-9	195	3	Missouri	FA-17	D7-No-15
Perry, Seniorise	RB	6-0	210	4	Louisville	FA-Mia-19	FA-Chi-14
Wade, Christian	RB	5-9	196	1	St Mary's	FA-19	FA-Buf-19
Yeldon, T.J.	RB	6-1	223	4	Alabama	FA-Jac-19	D2-Jac-15
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Beasley, Cole	WR	5-8	180	7	SMU	FA-Dal-19	FA-Dal-12
13 Bolden Jr, Victor	WR	5-8	178	2	Oregon State	FA-18	FA-SF-17
Brown, John	WR	5-11	178	5	Pittsburg State	FA-Bal-19	D3-Ari-14
80 Croom, Jason	TE	6-5	246	1	Tennessee	FA-17	FA-Buf-17
16 Foster, Robert	WR	6-2	196	1	Alabama	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
11 Jones, Zay	WR	6-2	200	2	East Carolina	D2a-17	D2a-Buf-17
Kroft, Tyler	TE	6-6	252	4	Rutgers	FA-Cin-19	D3a-Cin-15
14 McCloud III, Ray-Ray	WR	5-9	190	1	Clemson	D6-18	D6-Buf-18
19 McKenzie, Isaiah	WR	5-8	173	2	Georgia	W-Den-18	D5-Den-17
87 Phillips, Cam	WR	6-0	201	1	Virginia Tech	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
Roberts, Andre	WR	5-11	195	9	The Citadel	FA-NYJ-19	D3-Ari-10
15 Scott, Da'Mari	WR	6-0	205	1	Fresno State	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
Williams, Duke	WR	6-3	225	1	Auburn	FA-19	FA-LAR-16
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
66 Bodine, Russell	C	6-3	308	5	North Carolina	FA-18	D4-Cin-14
65 Boettger, Ike	G	6-6	313	1	Iowa	W-KC-18	FA-Buf-18
73 Dawkins, Dion	T	6-5	320	2	Temple	D2b-17	D2b-Buf-17
62 Ducas, Vladimir	G	6-5	329	9	Massachusetts	FA-17	D2-NYJ-10
Feliciano, Jon	G/C	6-4	325	4	Miami	FA-Oak-19	D4-Oak-15
Fisher, Jake	T	6-6	305	4	Oregon	FA-Cin-19	D2-Cin-15
Long, Spencer	G/C	6-5	318	5	Nebraska	FA-NYJ-19	D3b-Was-14
68 McDermott, Conor	T	6-8	305	2	UCLA	W-NE-17	D6-NE-17
Morse, Mitch	C	6-6	305	4	Missouri	FA-KC-19	D2-KC-15
Nsekhe, Ty	T	6-8	300	4	Texas State	FA-Was-19	FA-Ind-12
71 Sirtles, Jeremiah	T/G	6-6	315	5	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-LAC-14
Spain, Quinton	G	6-4	330	4	West Virginia	FA-Ten-19	FA-Ten-15
75 Teller, Wyatt	G	6-4	314	1	Virginia Tech	D5b-18	D5b-Buf-18
Waddle, LaAdrian	T/G	6-6	315	6	Texas Tech	FA-NE-19	FA-Det-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
55 Hughes, Jerry	DE	6-2	254	9	TCU	T-Ind-13	D1-Ind-10
90 Lawson, Shaq	DE	6-3	267	3	Clemson	D1b-16	D1-Buf-16
98 Lotulelei, Star	DT	6-2	315	6	Utah	FA-18	D1-Car-13
56 Love, Mike	DE	6-3	255	1	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
93 Murphy, Trent	DE	6-6	260	5	Stanford	FA-18	D2-Was-14
91 Peko, Kyle	DT	6-1	305	2	Oregon State	FA-18	FA-Den-16
99 Phillips, Harrison	DT	6-3	307	1	Stanford	D3-18	D3-Buf-18
97 Phillips, Jordan	DT	6-6	341	4	Oklahoma	W-Mia-18	D2-Mia-15
96 Thomas, Robert	DE	6-1	316	4	Arkansas	FA-18	FA-Was-14
54 Yarbrough, Eddie	DE	6-3	259	2	Wyoming	FA-17	FA-Den-16
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
57 Alexander, Lorenzo	LB	6-1	245	12	California	FA-16	FA-Car-05
49 Edmunds, Tremaine	LB	6-5	250	1	Virginia Tech	D1b-18	D1b-Buf-18
Harold, Eli	LB	6-3	243	4	Virginia	FA-Det-19	D3-SF-15
44 Lacey, Deon	LB	6-3	235	2	West Alabama	W-Mia-17	FA-Dal-13
58 Milano, Matt	LB	6-0	223	2	Boston College	D5a-17	D5a-Buf-17
51 Stanford, Julian	LB	6-1	230	6	Wagner	FA-18	FA-Jac-12
52 Thompson, Corey	LB	6-1	222	1	LSU	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Alexander, Maurice	S	6-2	220	5	Utah State	FA-Sea-19	D4-LAR-14
20 Bush, Rafael	S	5-11	203	8	South Carolina St.	FA-18	FA-Ari-10
Gaines, E.J.	CB	5-10	191	5	Missouri	FA-Cle-19	D6-LAR-14
23 Hyde, Micah	S	6-0	197	6	Iowa	FA-17	D5-GB-13
Johnson, Kevin	CB	6-0	182	4	Wake Forest	FA-Hou-19	D1-Hou-15
24 Johnson, Taron	CB	5-11	192	1	Weber State	D4-18	D4-Buf-18
38 Lewis, Ryan	CB	6-0	185	1	Pittsburgh	W-NE-18	FA-Ari-17
31 Marlowe, Dean	S	6-1	208	2	James Madison	FA-17	FA-Car-15
29 Neal, Siran	S	6-0	206	1	Jacksonville State	D5a-18	D5a-Buf-18
30 Pitts, Lafayette	CB	5-11	195	3	Pittsburgh	W-Jac-17	FA-Mia-16
21 Poyer, Jordan	CB	6-0	191	6	Oregon State	FA-17	D7-Phi-13
37 Rice, Denzel	CB	6-0	185	2	Coastal Carolina	FA-18	FA-Phi-15
39 Wallace, Levi	CB	6-0	179	1	Alabama	FA-18	FA-Buf-18
27 White, Tre'Davious	CB	5-11	172	2	LSU	D1-17	D1-Buf-17
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
9 Bojorquez, Corey	P	6-0	208	1	New Mexico	W-NE-18	FA-NE-18
7 Carter, Cory	P	5-11	220	1	Texas Southern	FA-17	FA-Hou-17
69 Ferguson, Reid	LS	6-2	235	2	LSU	FA-16	FA-Buf-16
4 Hauschka, Stephen	K	6-4	210	11	Middlebury	FA-17	FA-Min-08

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Zay Jones	Cole Beasley
WR		John Brown	16 Robert Foster
LT	73	Dion Dawkins	71 Jeremiah Sirtles
LG		Spencer Long	75 Wyatt Teller
C		Mitch Morse	Spencer Long
RG		Jon Feliciano	65 Ike Boettger
RT	70	Cody Ford (R)	Ty Nsekhe
TE		Tyler Kroft	80 Jason Croom
QB	17	Josh Allen	5 Matt Barkley
RB	25	LeSean McCoy	Frank Gore
FB	42	Patrick DiMarco	35 Keith Ford

DEFENSE

DE	93	Trent Murphy	90 Shaq Lawson
DT		Ed Oliver (R)	97 Jordan Phillips
DT	98	Star Lotulelei	99 Harrison Phillips
DE	55	Jerry Hughes	54 Eddie Yarbrough
WLB	58	Matt Milano	52 Corey Thompson
MLB	49	Tremaine Edmunds	51 Julian Stanford
SLB	57	Lorenzo Alexander	44 Deon Lacey
CB	27	Tre'Davious White	E.J. Gaines
CB	39	Levi Wallace	Kevin Johnson
FS	21	Jordan Poyer	29 Siran Neal
SS	23	Micah Hyde	20 Rafael Bush

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Stephen Hauschka	KR	19	Isaiah McKenzie
P	9	Corey Bojorquez	PR	19	Isaiah McKenzie

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM	POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Cole Beasley	Dallas	TE	Charles Clay	Arizona
WR	John Brown	Baltimore	RB	Chris Ivory	Free Agent
OG	Jon Feliciano	Oakland	OG	John Miller	Cincinnati
CB	E.J. Gaines	Cleveland	DT	Kyle Williams	Retired
RB	Frank Gore	Miami			
C/G	Spencer Long	N.Y. Jets			
C	Mitch Morse	Kansas City			
OT	Ty Nsekhe	Washington			

KEY LOSSES

SCOUTING THE BILLS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BUFFALO "Making an unexpected playoff appearance in 2017 bought GM Brandon Beane and head coach Sean McDermott some collateral, but they knew last year would be a difficult, take-a-step-back kind of campaign in advance of their roster rebuild. ... QB Josh Allen flashed his big arm and surprising athleticism; however, two things are required in 2019: They have to increase the ability around him, and he has to be more accurate on short to intermediate passes. ... In free agency, they signed center Mitch Morse and two wide receivers with different skills sets in vertical threat John Brown and chain-mover Cole Beasley. ... The heart and soul of the Buffalo defense departed with the retirement of tackle Kyle Williams. But, in the draft, Ed Oliver fell in their laps at No. 9, and he is an ideal fit as a super-quick 3-technique. Harrison Phillips is cut from the same cloth as Williams, so this will be a huge year for him. ... Linebacker Tremaine Edmunds had an impressive rookie campaign, and Lorenzo Alexander is returning for what will be his final season of pro football. ... Despite finishing second in total defense (294.1 ypg), the Bills were 26th in sacks with 36, so they are hoping Jerry Hughes, Trent Murphy and Shaq Lawson can increase their production. ... When you start to dig on this team, they are closer than one would expect, but everything hinges on the growth of Allen as their QB. This looks like a sub-.500 team, but not by much, and with cap space available, plus the addition of a young group of core players, better days are indeed ahead for the Bills."



Bills

IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Ed Oliver	DT	6-1	287	Houston
2.	Cody Ford	OG	6-3	329	Oklahoma
3.	Devin Singletary	RB	5-7	203	Florida Atlantic
3.	Dawson Knox	TE	6-4	258	Ole Miss
5.	Vosean Joseph	LB	6-1	230	Florida
6.	Jaquan Johnson	S	5-10	191	Miami (Fla.)
7.	Darryl Johnson	DE	6-6	253	N.C. A&T
7.	Tommy Sweeney	TE	6-4	251	Boston College

A team can never go wrong adding men for the trenches, and the Bills got two very highly regarded prospects in Ed Oliver and Cody Ford. Both have come to the right place, too. Oliver will start in place of beloved veteran Kyle Williams, who retired after 13 seasons, as a gap-penetrating 3-technique pass rusher and run stuffer. Oliver had 53.5 tackles for a loss and 13.5 sacks in college. Ford has an excellent chance to start at right tackle on an offensive line undergoing a major overhaul after the Bills finished 30th in yards and points. He had first-round grades, and the Bills landed him near the top of the second. Devin Singletary dominated in Conference USA while at Florida Atlantic and is someone to watch in a crowded field of running backs. Dawson Knox, a former walk-on at Ole Miss, has a chance to start.

Outside the Huddle

AGELESS WONDER Regardless how much running back Frank Gore contributes, Buffalo fans will enjoy watching a future Pro Football Hall of Famer at work. "The Inconvenient Truth," whose previous stops were San Francisco, Indianapolis and Miami, found it very convenient to sign on for one more NFL season at \$2 million. "I still love it, and I'm still having fun," Gore says. "When I'm training I still feel good. You look at my season last year with the Dolphins, I was balling." With 14,748 yards, he's fourth on the NFL's career list behind Emmitt Smith (18,355), Walter Payton (16,726) and Barry Sanders (15,269).

WHOA, NELLY Ed Oliver isn't just an accomplished defensive tackle; he's also an accomplished horseman. The tough Texan loves to ride horses in his spare time and plans on owning a stable full of them someday. It's doubtful any horse will top Oreo, one of the steeds of his youth. "I got into riding Oreo, and I swear that horse tried to kill me a couple times," Oliver said at the Scouting Combine. "Fighting that horse is really the reason I became fearless and why I'm able to go up against 6'5", 300-pound guys. When you fight a 1,000-pound animal, I ain't worried about no 300 pounds."

ALLEN VS. MAHOMES Bills QB Josh Allen and Kansas City's Patrick Mahomes, the NFL MVP, have developed a competitive friendship and often needle each other on social media about whose arm is stronger. There's a lot of mutual respect. "He's someone with tremendous talent," said Mahomes, speaking at a sports dinner in Rochester, N.Y. "There's going to be a

lot of dog fights in the future between me and him and the Bills and Chiefs for sure." During free agency, the Bills lured away Mahomes' center, Mitch Morse.

PRECOCIOUS RECRUIT Undrafted free agent wide receiver David Sills is a player Bills fans will be rooting for to make the team. He's the quarterback prodigy who made headlines when former USC coach Lane Kiffin offered him a scholarship as a 13-year-old seventh-grader. Kiffin got fired, Sills injured his throwing finger as a junior in high school, and he eventually landed at West Virginia where he converted to wide receiver, catching 33 TD passes his final two seasons. Sills was the subject of an ESPN E:60 report but went undrafted. "Never question why, just keep your head up and work," he tweeted. "Bills Mafia, let's get it."

FREE AGENT BOOST The Bills' signing of 19 free agents was akin to a marketing campaign for the city's chamber of commerce. That largesse of new players came in the wake of GM Brandon Beane's dalliance with Antonio Brown, the Steelers wide receiver who forced a trade to Oakland and reportedly would not have showed up had a trade to Buffalo been consummated. Social media trolls mocked Buffalo as the NFL's Siberia, but Beane's free agent haul shut things up. "That pissed me off, to be candid, because it was an ignorant comment," Beane says. "I'm not on social media ... but don't speak about Buffalo if you don't know what this city and what this fan base is like. We love this city. All I want to say is anybody who says that doesn't know Buffalo and really is just speaking out of ignorance."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	9
2015	8
2016	7
2017	9
2018	6

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

1.40

The Bills averaged 1.40 points per offensive drive, third fewest in the NFL. ...

26.18

But the defense allowed just 26.18 yards per defensive drive, the second fewest in the NFL.

11.0

Josh Allen had the longest average intended air yards per throw in the NFL, at 11.0.



Miami DOLPHINS

AFC East Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman: Stephen M. Ross
President/CEO: Tom Garfinkel
Vice Chairman/Partner: Bruce Beal
General Manager: Chris Grier
Stadium: Hard Rock Stadium (65,326)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.miamidolphins.com
Tickets: 888-FINS-TIX (346-7849)
Training Camp: Baptist Health Training Facility (Davie, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Brian Flores
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Chad O'Shea
Defensive Coordinator: Patrick Graham
Special Teams Coordinator: Danny Crossman
Assistant Head Coach/QBs: Jim Caldwell
Running Backs: Eric Studesville
Wide Receivers: Karl Dorrell
Tight Ends: George Godsey
Offensive Line: Pat Flaherty
Defensive Line: Marion Hobby
Linebackers: Rob Leonard
Safeties: Tony Oden
Defensive Pass Game Coordinator/Cornerbacks: Josh Boyer

2019 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Sept. 15	New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Sept. 22	at Dallas	1:00	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Sept. 29	L.A. Chargers	1:00	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
BYE							
Oct. 13	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Oct. 20	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Oct. 28	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:15	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 3	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Nov. 10	at Indianapolis	4:05	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Nov. 17	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Nov. 24	at Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Dec. 1	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Dec. 8	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Dec. 15	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Dec. 22	Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Dec. 29	at New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)

2018 NFL RANKINGS

No team has ever played in a Super Bowl in its home stadium. The streak will assuredly continue this season as the game heads to Hard Rock Stadium.

The Miami Dolphins are in all-out rebuild mode after one final desperate 2018 push by head coach Adam Gase and top football executive Mike Tannenbaum fell short. Those two were dismissed following a 7-9 record. General manager Chris Grier survived the purge and was given the juice to hire his own head coach.

That choice was ex-New England defensive coordinator Brian Flores. He comes from a franchise that hasn't needed to worry about the quarterback position since Tom Brady emerged in 2001. The Dolphins have spent almost two decades seeking a replacement for Dan Marino, which helps explain why Miami hasn't won a playoff game since the year before Brady led New England to the first of its six Super Bowl titles. The search continues in 2019 with a curious front-runner to fill the massive shoes left behind.

OFFENSE Tank for Tua? Jump for Justin? Nope. The mantra of the 2019 Miami Dolphins is now Rah for Rosen. All signs initially pointed toward the Dolphins clearing the decks of expensive veterans and stumbling through the year to put Miami in the best position possible to land one of the top quarterbacks projected in the 2020 draft like Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa or Oregon's Justin Herbert. The Dolphins may still be on that track. Rosen, though, will have every opportunity to show he's the man for the job after being acquired from Arizona for a second-round draft choice during the 2019 draft.

The Dolphins didn't pursue Rosen in the 2018 draft, standing pat with the No. 11 selection and choosing Alabama defensive back Minkah Fitzpatrick. So why the change of heart? It's believed that Gase — who enjoyed considerable power over personnel decisions — wasn't as enamored with Rosen as others who now have a significant say in the organization. Neither was new Arizona head coach Kliff Kingsbury, for that matter, and Rosen is now the only first-round quarterback since the AFL/NFL merger in 1970 to spend only one season with the team that drafted him.

That one year is one Rosen would rather forget. The Cardinals had the NFL's worst record (3-13) as Rosen was rushed into the starting lineup in Week 4. Negative narratives about suspect leadership skills began to circulate. Grier says that the Dolphins did their homework and that the speculation bashing Rosen's character was "B.S."

"We didn't go out saying he has to be a franchise quarterback for us," Grier says. "He's a very talented young player and still has a lot of upside. For us, the value was tremendous that we couldn't afford to pass up."

The unit's strength is a wide receiver crew led by Kenny Stills, a quality deep threat who

is one of five NFL wide receivers with at least six touchdown catches in each of the past three seasons. Grier is hoping the Dolphins get more out of DeVante Parker, Miami's 2015 first-round selection, than Gase did. Whether because of injuries or inconsistency, Parker became such a forgotten part of Gase's offense that the Dolphins were expected to let him leave in free agency before the coaching change led to his re-signing.

New offensive coordinator Chad O'Shea, who left his post as New England's wide receivers coach to follow Flores to Miami, may try to use Albert Wilson and Jakeem Grant more extensively in the slot and create Julian Edelman-style mismatches.



WR **KENNY STILL**S



2018 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 9	Tennessee	W	27-20
Sept. 16	at N.Y. Jets	W	20-12
Sept. 23	Oakland	W	28-20
Sept. 30	at New England	L	7-38
Oct. 7	at Cincinnati	L	17-27
Oct. 14	Chicago (ot)	W	31-28
Oct. 21	Detroit	L	21-32
Oct. 25	at Houston	L	23-42
Nov. 4	N.Y. Jets	W	13-6
Nov. 11	at Green Bay	L	12-31
Nov. 25	at Indianapolis	L	24-27
Dec. 2	Buffalo	W	21-17
Dec. 9	New England	W	34-33
Dec. 16	at Minnesota	L	17-41
Dec. 23	Jacksonville	L	7-17
Dec. 30	at Buffalo	L	17-42

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ryan Tannehill	274	176	1,979	17	9
Brock Osweiler	178	113	1,247	6	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Frank Gore	156	722	4.6	0	
Kenyan Drake	120	535	4.5	4	
Kalen Ballage	36	191	5.3	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Danny Amendola	59	575	9.7	1	
Kenny Stills	37	553	14.9	6	
Kenyan Drake	53	477	9.0	5	
Albert Wilson	26	391	15.0	4	
DeVante Parker	24	309	12.9	1	

KICKING: Jason Sanders, 18-20 FGs, 35-36 PAT, 89 points

TACKLES: Kiko Alonso, 125; Raekwon McMillan, 105

SACKS: Robert Quinn, 6.5; Cameron Wake, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Xavien Howard, 7; three tied with 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	289.9	31	16
Rushing	108.6	18	10
Passing	181.3	30	15
Scoring	19.9	26	12
Third Down %	30.1	31	16
Punt Returns	10.5	T8	T6
Kick Returns	24.1	T11	7

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	391.1	29	13
Rushing	145.3	31	16
Passing	245.8	21	10
Scoring	27.1	27	13
Interceptions	21	2	1
Sacks	31	29	14
Turnover Differential	+5	11	6

O'Shea doesn't have Rob Gronkowski to work with at tight end. In fact, the signing of Dwayne Allen away from New England was curious since Miami invested second- and fourth-round picks on Mike Gesicki and Durham Smythe, respectively, in 2018 and re-signed Nick O'Leary last December to a one-year deal. Gesicki added 13 pounds this offseason (he weighed 253 when checking in for Miami's off-season program) in hopes the added bulk would help him build upon a modest 22-catch rookie campaign.

Kenyan Drake and Kalen Ballage will battle to lead the running game. Drake was a disappointment last season, losing snaps to Frank Gore and failing to build on what was a promising 2017 campaign. Ballage's size (237 pounds) and pass-catching skills could give him a niche backup role.

Unfortunately for both Rosen and the RBs, Miami's offensive line remains — to put it kindly — a work in progress. Laremy Tunsil has emerged as a quality left tackle, and Daniel Kilgore (center) and Jesse Davis (right guard) return as competent albeit unspectacular starters. But the Dolphins may be using a third-round rookie at left guard (Michael Deiter) and head into the summer without a proven option at right tackle.

DEFENSE Flores comes from a franchise where the collective pass rush is better than the sum of its individual parts. He's hoping for a similar situation in Miami, as the Dolphins emerged from the draft with no difference-makers at end following the offseason departures of Cam Wake (Tennessee) and Robert Quinn (Dallas). It's now or never for Charles Harris, a 2017 first-round pick who must show he isn't a slow-footed bust. Harris actually mustered fewer sacks in 2018 (one) than during his rookie campaign (two).

Ndamukong Suh never turned into the offense-wrecking interior force the Dolphins hoped when making him the highest-paid defensive player in NFL history four years ago. The Dolphins hope they have found one now in 2019 first-round pick Christian Wilkins, who notched six sacks and 15 tackles for a loss during his dominant senior season at Clemson. Wilkins will play alongside the returning Davon Godchaux as the Dolphins seek to improve the league's 31st-ranked run defense.

Flores loved versatility in his Patriots linebacker corps but has only one proven player (Kiko Alonso) who fits the bill in Miami. Middle linebacker Raekwon McMillan must improve in pass coverage; Jerome Baker needs to increase his run-stopping prowess.

The secondary is sound. Xavien Howard will return from a knee injury that sidelined him the final month of the 2018 season and ruined his chances for postseason honors. With 11 interceptions in his past 17 games, Howard is motoring toward a huge contract entering the final year of his rookie deal. Fitzpatrick should remain at safety and team with veterans T.J. McDonald and Reshad Jones. Bobby McCain, Cordrea Tankersley and ex-Patriots spot starter Eric Rowe will fight for the remaining snaps at corner.

SPECIALISTS This is one area where the Dolphins are actually in good shape, although new unit coach Danny Crossman has big shoes to fill replacing the departed Darren Rizzi (New Orleans). Grant should reassume both punt and kickoff return duties, although Drake remains an option on kickoffs. Backup safety Walt Aikens is one of the league's top multi-purpose special teams performers. Jason Sanders was the NFL's most accurate rookie kicker, converting 18-of-20 field goal attempts. Matt Haack broke a franchise record with 35 punts downed inside the opponent's 20-yard line. That mark, though, also reflects an offense that broke down too often for sustained success.

FINAL ANALYSIS This year is all about 2020 and beyond — and team owner Stephen Ross has admitted it. Before the draft, Ross publicly allowed that even two years might not be enough to complete the makeover he hopes will turn Miami into a viable Super Bowl contender with sustainability into the future. The only way that happens is if Miami finds a difference-maker under center. Rosen has one year to impress. Otherwise, the Dolphins will enter next offseason with a lot more cap room and draft picks but still no answer at the game's most important position.



KIKO ALONSO



2019 VETERAN DOLPHINS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14 Fitzpatrick, Ryan	QB	6-2	223	14	Harvard	FA-TB-19	07-LAR-05
3 Rosen, Josh	QB	6-4	218	1	UCLA	T-Ari-19	01-Ari-18
5 Rudock, Jake	QB	6-3	212	1	Michigan	FA-19	06-Det-16

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
27 Ballage, Kalen	RB	6-2	237	1	Arizona State	D4b-18	D4b-Mia-18
32 Drake, Kenyan	RB	6-1	211	3	Alabama	D3a-16	D3a-Mia-16
34 Farrow, Kenneth	RB	5-9	219	1	Houston	FA-19	FA-LAC-16

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
89 Allen, Dwayne	TE	6-3	265	7	Clemson	FA-NE-19	D3-Ind-12
17 Butler, Brice	WR	6-3	220	6	San Diego State	FA-18	D7-Oak-13
84 Ford, Isaiah	WR	6-2	189	2	Virginia Tech	D7-17	D7-Mia-17
88 Gesicki, Mike	TE	6-6	253	1	Penn State	D2-18	D2-Mia-18
19 Grant, Jakeem	WR	5-7	169	3	Texas Tech	D6a-16	D6a-Mia-16
18 Horn, Reece	WR	6-3	215	1	Indianapolis	FA-19	FA-Ten-16
80 Louis, Ricardo	WR	6-2	215	3	Auburn	FA-Cle-19	D4b-Cle-16
83 O'Leary, Nick	TE	6-3	252	3	Florida State	FA-18	D6-Buf-15
82 Owusu, Francis	WR	6-3	223	1	Stanford	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
11 Parker, DeVante	WR	6-3	216	4	Louisville	D1-15	D1-Mia-15
81 Smythe, Durham	TE	6-6	248	1	Notre Dame	D4a-18	D4a-Mia-18
10 Stills, Kenny	WR	6-1	202	6	Oklahoma	T-NO-15	D5-NO-13
87 Walford, Clive	TE	6-4	250	4	Miami	FA-19	D3-Oak-15
15 Wilson, Albert	WR	5-9	186	5	Georgia State	FA-KC-18	FA-KC-14

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
68 Asiata, Isaac	G	6-3	345	2	Utah	D5a-17	D5a-Mia-17
77 Davis, Jesse	G/T	6-6	325	2	Idaho	FA-17	FA-Sea-15
70 Dunn, Michael	T/G	6-5	300	1	Maryland	FA-19	FA-LAR-17
61 Hilland, Connor	C	6-4	298	1	William & Mary	FA-18	FA-Mia-18
71 Jones-Smith, Jaryd	T	6-7	320	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Hou-18
64 Kilgore, Daniel	C	6-3	291	8	Appalachian State	T-SF-18	D5-SF-11
66 Reed, Chris	OL	6-5	310	3	Minnesota State	FA-Jac-19	FA-Jac-15
74 Sterup, Zach	T	6-9	327	2	Nebraska	FA-17	FA-KC-16
78 Tunsil, Laremy	T	6-5	318	3	Ole Miss	D1-16	D1-Mia-16

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
95 Carradine, Tank	DE	6-4	270	5	Florida State	FA-19	D2-SF-13
56 Godchaux, Davon	DT	6-3	315	2	LSU	D5b-17	D5b-Mia-17
90 Harris, Charles	DE	6-3	250	2	Missouri	D1-17	D1-Mia-17
94 Mbu, Joey	DT	6-3	323	2	Houston	FA-Alt-15	FA-Alt-15
75 Norton, Kendrick	DT	6-3	315	1	Miami	FA-18	D7-Car-18
65 Pittman, Jamiyus	DT	6-2	319	1	UCF	FA-18	FA-Mia-18
69 Queiroz Neto, Durval	DT	6-4	325	1	None	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
93 Spence, Akeem	DT	6-1	307	6	Illinois	T-Det-18	D4a-TB-13
96 Taylor, Vincent	DT	6-3	306	2	Oklahoma State	D6-17	D6-Mia-17
72 Valoaga, Jeremiah	DE	6-6	275	2	UNLV	FA-18	FA-Det-17
76 Woodard, Jonathan	DE	6-6	271	1	Central Arkansas	FA-17	D7-Jac-16

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59 Allen, Chase	LB	6-3	250	2	Southern Illinois	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
47 Alonso, Kiko	LB	6-3	239	6	Oregon	T-Phi-16	D2-Buf-13
53 Baker, Jerome	LB	6-2	215	1	Ohio State	D3-18	D3-Mia-18
53 Burgess, James	LB	6-0	230	2	Louisville	FA-18	FA-Mia-16
49 Eguavoen, Sam	LB	6-1	220	1	Texas Tech	FA-19	FA-Mia-19
58 Elliott, Jayrone	LB	6-3	240	3	Toledo	FA-19	FA-GB-14
50 Holmes, Tyrone	LB	6-2	253	2	Montana	FA-19	D6-Jac-16
45 Hull, Mike	LB	6-0	235	3	Penn State	FA-15	FA-Mia-15
52 McMillan, Raekwon	LB	6-2	248	2	Ohio State	D2-17	D2-Mia-17
51 Poling, Quentin	LB	6-1	235	1	Ohio	D7a-18	D7a-Mia-18

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
35 Aikens, Walt	DB	6-1	208	5	Liberty	D4-14	D4-Mia-14
31 Armstrong, Cornell	CB	6-0	185	1	Southern Miss	D6-18	D6-Mia-18
36 Davis, Jalen	CB	5-10	185	1	Utah State	FA-18	FA-Mia-18
37 Delaney, Dee	CB	5-11	200	1	Miami	W-Jac-18	FA-Jac-18
29 Fitzpatrick, Minkah	S	6-1	202	1	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Mia-18
25 Howard, Xavier	CB	6-1	192	3	Baylor	D2-16	D2-Mia-16
20 Jones, Reshad	S	6-1	215	9	Georgia	D5b-10	D5b-Mia-10
30 Lammons, Chris	S	5-10	190	1	South Carolina	FA-18	FA-Alt-18
28 McCain, Bobby	CB	5-11	192	4	Memphis	D5a-15	D5a-Mia-15
22 McDonald, T.J.	S	6-2	223	6	USC	FA-LAR-17	D3a-LAR-13
24 McTyer, Torry	CB	5-11	188	2	UNLV	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
21 Rowe, Eric	CB	6-1	205	4	Utah	FA-NE-19	D2-Phi-15
26 Smith, Maurice	S	6-0	194	2	Georgia	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
23 Tankersley, Cordrea	CB	6-1	200	2	Clemson	D3-17	D3-Mia-17
33 Wiltz, Jomal	CB	5-10	190	1	Iowa State	FA-19	FA-Phi-17

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92 Denney, John	LS	6-5	242	14	BYU	FA-05	FA-Mia-05
2 Haack, Matt	P	6-0	202	2	Arizona State	FA-17	FA-Mia-17
7 Sanders, Jason	K	5-11	186	1	New Mexico	D7b-18	D7b-Mia-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	10	Kenny Stills	17	Brice Butler
WR	11	DeVante Parker	84	Isaiah Ford
WR	15	Albert Wilson	19	Jakeem Grant
LT	78	Laremy Tunsil		Isaiah Prince (R)
LG		Michael Deiter (R)	68	Isaac Asiata
C	67	Daniel Kilgore	61	Connor Hilland
RG	77	Jesse Davis	68	Isaac Asiata
RT	74	Zach Sterup		Isaiah Prince (R)
TE	89	Dwayne Allen	88	Mike Gesicki
QB	3	Josh Rosen	14	Ryan Fitzpatrick
RB	32	Kenyan Drake	27	Kalen Ballage

DEFENSE

DE	76	Jonathan Woodard	95	Tank Carradine
DT	56	Davon Godchaux	96	Vincent Taylor
DT		Christian Wilkins (R)	93	Akeem Spence
DE	90	Charles Harris	72	Jeremiah Valoaga
OLB	47	Kiko Alonso		Andrew Van Ginkel (R)
MLB	52	Raekwon McMillan	45	Mike Hull
OLB	53	Jerome Baker	51	Quentin Poling
CB	28	Bobby McCain	23	Cordrea Tankersley
CB	25	Xavien Howard	29	Minkah Fitzpatrick
FS	22	T.J. McDonald	29	Minkah Fitzpatrick
SS	20	Reshad Jones	35	Walt Aikens

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Jason Sanders	KR	19	Jakeem Grant
P	2	Matt Haack	PR	19	Jakeem Grant

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
TE	Dwayne Allen	New England
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Tampa Bay
QB	Josh Rosen	Arizona
CB	Eric Rowe	New England

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Danny Amendola	Detroit
RB	Frank Gore	Buffalo
RT	Ja'Wuan James	Denver
G	Ted Larsen	Chicago
DE	Robert Quinn	Dallas
G	Josh Sitton	Retired
QB	Ryan Tannehill	Tennessee
OLB	Cam Wake	Tennessee

SCOUTING THE DOLPHINS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MIAMI "With no apparent philosophical thread through this roster, they opted to try and solve their QB riddle by executing a trade for Josh Rosen, who should win the job over Ryan Fitzpatrick. ... No unit this side of the quarterback position defines the Dolphins more than the offensive line. Ja'Wuan James left for Denver in free agency, and Laremy Tunsil, while he has outstanding natural ability, has just been okay in his first two years. ... They asked Kenyan Drake to bulk up for 2018, and he responded with a solid year and is certainly good enough to be a big piece of the backfield puzzle. ... They need more from tight ends Mike Gesicki and Durham Smythe, while DeVante Parker gets one more shot to prove that he can be a No. 1 wide receiver. Kenny Stills gives them a nice vertical threat. ... They don't have a name-brand defender in the front seven, so they picked Christian Wilkins out of Clemson in the first round, and former top choice Charles Harris must show up in 2019 after a one-sack season. ... The linebackers are below average and will stay that way. ... Safety Reshad Jones is the most under-valued defensive back in the division and, along with Minkah Fitzpatrick and Pro Bowl corner Xavier Howard, gives them a solid starting point in the back end. ... New coach Brian Flores' biggest job will be giving Miami a clearly defined direction in schemes and personnel, while it will be the job of GM Chris Grier to find the right players. There will be growing pains as they try to establish a foundation before moving forward in 2020."



Dolphins IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Christian Wilkins	DT	6-3	315	Clemson
3.	Michael Deiter	OG	6-6	310	Wisconsin
5.	Andrew Van Ginkel	LB	6-4	236	Wisconsin
6.	Isaiah Prince	OT	6-6	305	Ohio State
7.	Chandler Cox	RB	6-1	242	Auburn
	Myles Gaskin	RB	5-9	205	Washington

Christian Wilkins and Michael Deiter are plug-and-play additions at defensive tackle and left guard, respectively. Isaiah Prince was a three-year starter at Ohio State who will have the chance to compete for the vacant right tackle spot. Andrew Van Ginkel's pass-rush ability should get him on the field in sub packages. The Dolphins don't have another fullback on the roster, so Chandler Cox has a legitimate shot at sticking. Myles Gaskin — the only FBS player besides Ron Dayne to rush for 1,200-plus yards in four straight college seasons — will compete to become the third running back behind Kenyan Drake and Kalen Ballage.

Outside the Huddle

FIRST TIME THE CHARM? Brian Flores will try to buck the trend of Bill Belichick disciples (excluding Houston's Bill O'Brien) failing to become winners as head coaches outside of New England. Flores also will try to become the first Dolphins coach to win a playoff game as a first-time head coach. Miami's past five HC hires were all newcomers to the job at the NFL level. Nick Saban, Cam Cameron, Tony Sparano, Joe Philbin and Adam Gase were a combined 92-117 with an 0-2 record in the postseason.

KING OF THE ROAD Depending on how the season unfolds with Josh Rosen, Ryan Fitzpatrick could make history by starting at quarterback for his eighth different NFL team after previous stops with Tampa Bay (2017-18), New York Jets (2015-16), Houston (2014), Tennessee (2013), Buffalo (2009-12), Cincinnati (2007-08), and the then-St. Louis Rams (2005-06). Chris Chandler also started for seven different teams during his 15-year NFL career (1988-2004). As far as becoming the NFL's most-traveled QB, Fitzpatrick still has a ways to go. The distinction is held by J.T. O'Sullivan, who spent time with 12 clubs between 2002 and 2010 — though he saw action with only four teams.

SNAPPING INTO HISTORY The Dolphins will have their 15th different starting quarterback and sixth different head coach (excluding interims) since 2005, but one constant remains for a franchise wracked by instability — long snapping. John Denney, 40, enters this season having appeared in a franchise-record 224 consecutive games since earning the job as an undrafted

college free agent from BYU. That marks the NFL's longest active streak as well. If he completes another full season, Denney will tie such luminaries as Ronde Barber and Hall of Fame center Mick Tingelhoff for ninth on the all-time list.

BRAWN AND BRAINS Christian Wilkins wasn't merely one of the best defensive linemen in Clemson history; no player in school history graduated faster than the Dolphins' first-round pick. The 13th overall choice completed his undergraduate degree (communications) in two-and-half years and then earned a master's in athletic leadership while completing his senior season. Wilkins also worked as a substitute teacher during his time with the Tigers. "I mostly taught high school and elementary school, kindergarten and stuff," he says. "I wasn't messing with middle school. Those middle-schoolers are different [laughs]. It was cool. I felt like Arnold Schwarzenegger in 'Kindergarten Cop.' They were falling all over me, running to me like, 'Mr. Wilkins! Mr. Wilkins!' I was like, 'Dude, my name is Christian.'"

2020 DRAFT BONANZA The Dolphins already own 10 picks in the 2020 draft through trades and are expected to receive third- and fifth-round compensatory choices for the losses of right tackle Ja'Wuan James (Denver) and defensive end Cam Wake (Tennessee). This puts the Dolphins on track for their highest selection total since the 14-player draft of 1997 that yielded Hall of Fame edge rusher Jason Taylor and longtime cornerback Sam Madison. Miami is projected to have two picks in each of Rounds 2-7.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

30.8

Opponents were forced to punt on just 30.8 percent of drives against the Dolphins, the lowest rate in the NFL.

30.08

The Dolphins were the second-slowest offense in the NFL, averaging a play every 30.08 seconds.

1.9

Miami overperformed expected Pythagorean wins by 1.9 wins, the highest in the NFL.



New England PATRIOTS

AFC East Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Robert Kraft
President: Jonathan Kraft
Director of Player Personnel: Nick Caserio
Stadium: Gillette Stadium (65,878)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.patriots.com
Tickets: 800-543-1776
Training Camp: Gillette Stadium (Foxboro, Mass.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bill Belichick
Record With Team: 225-79
Career Record: 261-123
Offensive Coordinator/QBs: Josh McDaniels
Defensive Coordinator: TBD
Running Backs: Ivan Fears
Wide Receivers: TBD
Tight Ends: Nick Caley
Offensive Line: Dante Scarnecchia
Defensive Line: DeMarcus Covington
Linebackers: Jerod Mayo
Cornerbacks: TBD
Safeties: Steve Belichick
Special Teams: Joe Judge

The Patriots looked utterly mortal at times last season before closing strong, as they tend to do under coach Bill Belichick, en route to a Super Bowl win, the franchise's sixth.

However, for as formidable as this team is, there are some transitional factors entering the 2019 campaign that could knock the Pats down a peg. For one, the coaching staff is undergoing a major overhaul. Also, Rob Gronkowski's retirement leaves a huge void at tight end. And, finally, of course, there is the worry that Father Time will finally catch up to quarterback Tom Brady, who will be 42 years old when the season begins.

That said, this is an organization that consistently finds a way to win in an age when dynasties should not be a regular occurrence.

Someday, this will all come to an end. The rest of the league is hoping that process at least starts this year.

OFFENSE It all begins with Brady, still, and one has to wonder just exactly when his decline will come. Right now, even though his play in 2018 wasn't necessarily his best (his touchdown-to-interception ratio was his worst since 2013), he is still lethal in the clutch and without peer when it comes to reading defenses.

However, there will be some question marks concerning his weapons. Although slot receiver extraordinaire and reigning Super Bowl MVP Julian Edelman still produces at a high level, he is 33 years old, and the talent level around him at the position is thin. That's why the Patriots targeted Arizona State wideout N'Keal Harry, a yards-after-the-catch monster and red zone weapon, with their first pick in the draft.

Even with Harry, the Patriots will need more out of players like Phillip Dorsett, because they cannot necessarily expect much from newly acquired receivers Bruce Ellington and Demaryius Thomas.

For as promising as Harry is, though, the passing game will no doubt suffer from Gronkowski's retirement. The tight end position was not addressed early in the draft and will likely go to Austin Seferian-Jenkins.

The bottom line: This offense will have to be more creative in the passing game to account for the personnel shift.

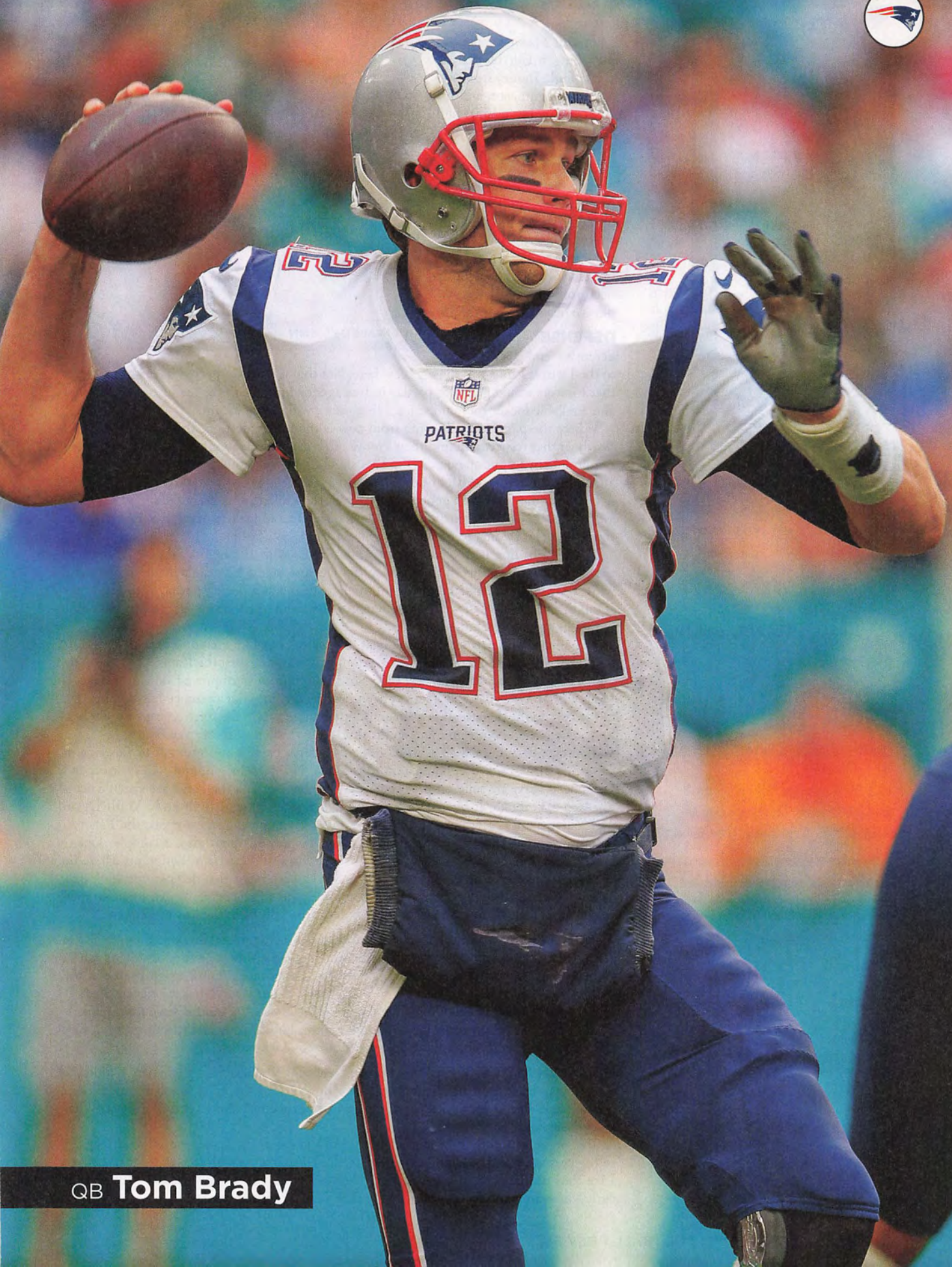
The Patriots showed last season that they could transition into a team with a dangerous rushing attack. Heading into his second season, Sony Michel has the potential to be a true lead dog at the position, and the Pats are one of the few teams that still value the fullback position, using James Develin there as a battering ram in the I-formation. Of course, fellow running back James White is about as good a security blanket as there is for Brady as a check-down and screen option.

The arrival of Alabama's Damien Harris could bolster the depth, although most of the action should still center around Michel and White.

The offensive line remains a strength, but questions persist about the left tackle position after the departure of Trent Brown in free agency. Although 2018 first-round pick Isaiah Wynn is expected to step in there, he is coming off a torn Achilles. The team added a nice depth piece in the draft in West Virginia's Yodny Cajuste. The interior of the line, with guards Joe Thuney and Shaq Mason and center David Andrews, remains stout. Andrews is one of the most consistent players on the

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	Pittsburgh	8:20	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)	
Sept. 15	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Sept. 22	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)	
Sept. 29	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	
Oct. 6	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)	
Oct. 10	N.Y. Giants (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)	
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	8:15	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)	
Oct. 27	Cleveland	4:25	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Nov. 3	at Baltimore	8:20	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
BYE								
Nov. 17	at Philadelphia	4:25	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)	
Nov. 24	Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)	
Dec. 1	at Houston	8:20	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)	
Dec. 8	Kansas City	4:25	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)	
Dec. 15	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Dec. 21/22	Buffalo	TBD	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	
Dec. 29	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	



QB **Tom Brady**



2018 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 9	Houston	W	27-20
Sept. 16	at Jacksonville	L	20-31
Sept. 23	at Detroit	L	10-26
Sept. 30	Miami	W	38-7
Oct. 4	Indianapolis	W	38-24
Oct. 14	Kansas City	W	43-40
Oct. 21	at Chicago	W	38-31
Oct. 29	at Buffalo	W	25-6
Nov. 4	Green Bay	W	31-17
Nov. 11	at Tennessee	L	10-34
Nov. 25	at N.Y. Jets	W	27-13
Dec. 2	Minnesota	W	24-10
Dec. 9	at Miami	L	33-34
Dec. 16	at Pittsburgh	L	10-17
Dec. 23	Buffalo	W	24-12
Dec. 30	N.Y. Jets	W	38-3
Postseason			
Jan. 13	L.A. Chargers	W	41-28
Jan. 20	at Kansas City (ot)	W	37-31
Feb. 3	L.A. Rams	W	13-3

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Tom Brady	570	375	4,355	29	11
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Sony Michel	209	931	4.5	6	
James White	94	425	4.5	5	
Cordarrelle Patterson	42	228	5.4	1	
Rex Burkhead	57	186	3.3	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Julian Edelman	74	850	11.5	6	
James White	87	751	8.6	7	
Josh Gordon	40	720	18.0	3	
Rob Gronkowski	47	682	14.5	3	
Chris Hogan	35	532	15.2	3	

KICKING: Stephen Gostkowski, 27-32 FGs, 49-50 PAT, 130 points

TACKLES: Kyle Van Noy, 92; Patrick Chung, 84

SACKS: Trey Flowers, 7.5; Deatrich Wise, 4.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Duron Harmon, 4; two tied with 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	393.4	5	3
Rushing	127.3	5	2
Passing	266.1	8	4
Scoring	27.3	4	2
Third Down %	40.8	13	5
Punt Returns	7.7	18	14
Kick Returns	27.0	2	2

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	359.1	21	9
Rushing	112.7	11	6
Passing	246.4	22	11
Scoring	20.3	7	5
Interceptions	18	T3	2
Sacks	30	T30	15
Turnover Differential	+10	5	2

team, and Mason is about as punishing a run blocker as you'll find. Thuney's growth has been significant, and his ability to anchor against bull rushers has improved immensely.

Overall, you may see this offense continue to lean on Michel more to take some of the pressure off Brady. The short-to-intermediate passing game will still be fine, but the Patriots obviously need to find ways to get explosive plays through the air.

DEFENSE The loss of defensive end Trey Flowers to the Detroit Lions was the big blow here. Not that it was unexpected, as it was no secret that Flowers would get a big payday in free agency, but he was the team's top pass rusher and a reliable locker room presence. His absence will be significant.

Where the pass rush will come from now is the main question. The Pats tend to start slowly in that respect and find their groove after the midway point, but even Flowers was not prolific by league standards. The Pats should look to be multiple in their strategies to attack the quarterback. Right now, the most logical edge threat would be Michael Bennett, who comes over with good pedigree from the Philadelphia Eagles. Bennett had nine sacks in 2018. Could rookie Chase Winovich step in and make a mark there? Maybe, but Bennett is likely going to be the first man up.

The interior line is in a much better spot. Even with the loss of Malcom Brown to the New Orleans Saints in free agency, the Patriots might have actually upgraded there with the signing of Mike Pennel from the Jets. Pennel is a pocket pusher with great play strength and should pair well with Lawrence Guy, who has done an exceptional job holding up in his time with the Pats.

The linebacking corps took some heat last season, but like the entire squad, played its best when it mattered most, including a dominant effort against the Rams. Kyle Van Noy, a plus blitz, is probably the best player in that group, with improved skills in coverage. Dont'a Hightower has had issues staying healthy, but his edge presence has become one of the keys to the defense. If Ja'Whaun Bentley can return to the form he began to flash in his rookie season before an injury cut it short, expect the unit to be even better.

The secondary, even with a bit of an aging safety corps, is the strength of this side of the ball. Cornerback Stephon Gilmore is a true No. 1 cover guy, and J.C. Jackson and Jason McCourty are solid on the other side. One has to think the Pats have specific plans to place 6'3" rookie Joejuan Williams on bigger receivers and tight ends. With Devin McCourty, Duron Harmon, and Patrick Chung manning the safety spots, the Pats can still throw out all three on certain downs and give opposing quarterbacks complex looks.

With the loss of defensive play caller Brian Flores to the Miami Dolphins, where he took the head coaching position, it remains to be seen what this defense will look like. Will the Pats, as they did under Flores, be more aggressive by bringing extra men to rush the passer? It stands to reason that they should, especially with the loss of Flowers.

SPECIALISTS With the return of placekicker Stephen Gostkowski and punter Ryan Allen, the kicking game remains dependable. Keep an eye on a battle for Allen's job in camp, though, after the Pats drafted Jake Bailey. The coverage units are still some of the best in football, with perennial All-Pro Matthew Slater and young speedsters such as Jonathan Jones and Keion Crossen emerging as devastating gunners. The return game is a little iffy, as Edelman is the best option on punts, but the Pats might want to limit him there a bit, and there aren't many obvious choices on kick return.

FINAL ANALYSIS There are plenty of reasons to believe that this team could take a small step back. But the Patriots still have Belichick as their coach and Brady as their quarterback. For as long as this pairing has been together, the level of consistency has lapped the field.

This organization is still the model for ultra success in the sport, and a few defections in the personnel and coaching departments don't feel like enough to change that just yet. Like they did last year, the Patriots are likely to figure out whatever issues plague them early this season and rectify them by the time January rolls around.



JULIAN EDELMAN



2019 VETERAN PATRIOTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12	Brady, Tom	QB	6-4	225	19	Michigan	D6b-00	D6b-NE-00
5	Etling, Danny	QB	6-3	225	1	LSU	D7a-18	D7a-NE-18
2	Hoyer, Brian	QB	6-2	216	10	Michigan State	FA-17	FA-NE-09
RUNNING BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38	Bolden, Brandon	RB	5-11	220	7	Ole Miss	FA-Mia-19	FA-NE-12
34	Burkhead, Rex	RB	5-10	215	6	Nebraska	FA-Cin-17	D6a-Cin-13
46	Develin, James	FB	6-3	255	6	Brown	FA-12	FA-Cin-10
	Johnson, Jakob	FB	6-3	250	1	Tennessee	FA-19	FA-NE-19
26	Michel, Sony	RB	5-11	215	1	Georgia	D1b-18	D1b-NE-18
28	White, James	RB	5-10	205	5	Wisconsin	D4b-14	D4b-NE-14
RECEIVERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
80	Anderson, Stephen	TE	6-3	230	3	California	FA-18	FA-Hou-16
16	Andrews, Darren	WR	5-10	200	1	UCLA	FA-18	FA-NE-18
14	Berrios, Braxton	WR	5-9	190	1	Miami	D6b-18	D6b-NE-18
13	Dorsett, Phillip	WR	5-10	192	4	Miami	T-Ind-17	D1-Ind-15
11	Edelman, Julian	WR	5-10	198	10	Kent State	D7a-09	D7a-NE-09
	Ellington, Bruce	WR	5-9	200	5	South Carolina	FA-Det-19	D4-SF-14
10	Gordon, Josh	WR	6-3	225	5	Baylor	T-Cle-18	SD2-Cle-12
	Harris, Maurice	WR	6-3	200	3	California	FA-Was-19	FA-Was-16
85	Izzo, Ryan	TE	6-5	255	1	Florida State	D7c-18	D7c-NE-18
	LaCosse, Matt	TE	6-6	255	4	Illinois	FA-Den-19	FA-NYG-15
17	Patterson, Damoun	WR	6-2	190	1	Youngstown State	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
	Seferian-Jenkins, Austin	TE	6-5	262	5	Washington	FA-Jac-19	D2-TB-14
18	Slater, Matthew	WR	6-0	205	11	UCLA	D5-08	D5-NE-08
87	Thomas, Demaryius	WR	6-3	229	9	Georgia Tech	FA-Hou-19	D1-Den-10
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
64	Adams, Tony	OL	6-1	302	1	NC State	FA-18	
60	Andrews, David	OL	6-3	300	4	Georgia	FA-15	FA-NE-15
61	Cannon, Marcus	OL	6-6	335	8	TCU	D5a-11	D5a-NE-11
74	Croston, Cole	OL	6-5	310	2	Iowa	FA-17	FA-NE-17
	Eldrenkamp, Jake	OL	6-5	305	1	Washington	FA-19	FA-LAR-17
66	Ferentz, James	OL	6-2	300	3	Iowa	FA-17	FA-Hou-14
75	Karras, Ted	OL	6-4	305	3	Illinois	D6c-16	D6c-NE-16
	Lang, Cedrick	OL	6-7	300	2	UTEP	FA-Min-19	FA-NYG-16
69	Mason, Shaq	OL	6-1	310	4	Georgia Tech	D4c-15	D4c-NE-15
	Mathews, Ryker	OL	6-5	320	1	BYU	FA-19	FA-NO-16
63	Schwenke, Brian	OL	6-3	310	6	California	FA-18	D4-Ten-13
72	Skipper, Dan	OL	6-9	317	1	Arkansas	FA-18	FA-Dal-17
62	Thuney, Joe	OL	6-5	308	3	NC State	D3a-16	D3a-NE-16
76	Wynn, Isaiah	OL	6-2	310	1	Georgia	D1a-18	D1a-NE-18
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Bennett, Michael	DE	6-4	274	10	Texas A&M	T-Phi-19	FA-Sea-09
70	Butler, Adam	DL	6-5	300	2	Vanderbilt	FA-17	FA-NE-17
58	Davis, Keionta	DL	6-4	280	2	Chattanooga	FA-17	FA-NE-17
93	Guy, Lawrence	DL	6-4	315	8	Arizona State	FA-Bal-17	D7-GB-11
45	Harris, Trent	DL	6-2	255	1	Miami	FA-18	FA-NE-18
92	Herron, Frank	DL	6-4	305	1	LSU	FA-18	FA-NE-18
97	Kamalu, Ufomba	DL	6-6	295	3	Miami	FA-18	FA-Hou-16
	Parry, David	DL	6-2	317	4	Stanford	FA-19	D5-Ind-15
	Pennel, Mike	DL	6-4	332	5	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-NYJ-19	FA-GB-14
95	Rivers, Derek	DE	6-5	250	2	Youngstown State	D3a-17	D3a-NE-17
55	Simon, John	DE	6-2	260	6	Ohio State	FA-18	D4-Bal-13
91	Wise, Deatrich	DE	6-5	275	2	Arkansas	D4-17	D4-NE-17
LINEBACKERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51	Bentley, Ja'Whaun	LB	6-2	255	1	Purdue	D5-18	D5-NE-18
54	Hightower, Dont'a	LB	6-3	260	7	Alabama	D1b-12	D1b-NE-12
36	King, Brandon	LB	6-2	220	4	Auburn	FA-15	FA-NE-15
48	Munson, Calvin	LB	6-0	243	2	San Diego State	FA-18	FA-NYG-17
52	Roberts, Elandon	LB	6-0	238	3	Houston	D6b-16	D6b-NE-16
44	Sam, Christian	LB	6-2	240	1	Arizona State	D6a-18	D6a-NE-18
53	Van Noy, Kyle	LB	6-3	250	5	BYU	T-Det-16	D2-Det-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Brooks, Terrence	DB	5-11	200	5	Florida State	FA-NYJ-19	D3-Bal-14
23	Chung, Patrick	DB	5-11	215	10	Oregon	FA-14	D2a-NE-09
35	Crossen, Keion	DB	5-10	185	1	Western Carolina	D7b-18	D7b-NE-18
29	Dawson Jr., Duke	DB	5-10	198	1	Florida	D2-18	D2-NE-18
43	Ebner, Nate	DB	6-0	215	7	Ohio State	D6-12	D6-NE-12
24	Gilmore, Stephon	CB	6-1	202	7	South Carolina	FA-Buf-17	D1-Buf-12
21	Harmon, Duron	DB	6-1	205	6	Rutgers	D3b-13	D3b-NE-13
39	Howard, A.J.	DB	5-11	203	1	Appalachian State	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
27	Jackson, J.C.	DB	6-1	198	1	Maryland	FA-18	FA-NE-18
31	Jones, Jonathan	DB	5-10	190	3	Auburn	FA-16	FA-NE-16
32	McCorty, Devin	DB	5-10	195	9	Rutgers	D1-10	D1-NE-10
30	McCorty, Jason	CB	5-11	195	10	Rutgers	T-Cle-18	D6-Ten-09
22	Melifonwu, Obi	DB	6-4	224	2	Connecticut	D2-Oak-17	D2-Oak-17
42	Wiltz, Jomal	DB	5-10	190	1	Iowa State	FA-17	FA-Phi-17
SPECIALISTS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Allen, Ryan	P	6-2	220	6	Louisiana Tech	FA-13	FA-NE-13
49	Cardona, Joe	LS	6-3	245	4	Navy	D5-15	D5-NE-15
3	Gostkowski, Stephen	K	6-1	215	13	Memphis	D4b-06	D4b-NE-06

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Julian Edelman	Bruce Ellington
WR	13	Phillip Dorsett	N'Keal Harry (R)
LT	76	Isaiah Wynn	Yodny Cajuste (R)
LG	62	Joe Thuney	75 Ted Karras
C	60	David Andrews	66 James Ferentz
RG	69	Shaq Mason	75 Ted Karras
RT	61	Marcus Cannon	Yodny Cajuste (R)
TE		Austin Seferian-Jenkins	80 Stephen Anderson
QB	12	Tom Brady	2 Brian Hoyer
RB	26	Sony Michel	Damien Harris (R)
RB	28	James White	46 James Develin

DEFENSE

DE	91	Deatrich Wise	58 Keionta Davis
DT	93	Lawrence Guy	70 Adam Butler
DT		Mike Pennel	70 Adam Butler
DE		Michael Bennett	Chase Winovich (R)
OLB	54	Dont'a Hightower	36 Brandon King
MLB	52	Elandon Roberts	51 Ja'Whaun Bentley
OLB	53	Kyle Van Noy	44 Christian Sam
CB	24	Stephon Gilmore	Joejuan Williams (R)
CB	30	Jason McCorty	27 J.C. Jackson
S	32	Devin McCorty	21 Duron Harmon
S	23	Patrick Chung	22 Obi Melifonwu

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Stephen Gostkowski	KR	26	Sony Michel
P	6	Ryan Allen	PR	11	Julian Edelman

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
DL	Michael Bennett	Philadelphia
RB	Brandon Bolden	Miami
WR	Bruce Ellington	Detroit
TE	Matt LaCosse	Denver
DL	Mike Pennel	N.Y. Jets
TE	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	Jacksonville
WR	Demaryius Thomas	Houston

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	Malcom Brown	New Orleans
OT	Trent Brown	Oakland
DE	Trey Flowers	Detroit
TE	Rob Gronkowski	Retired
WR	Chris Hogan	Carolina
WR	Cordarrelle Patterson	Chicago
CB	Eric Rowe	Miami
OT	LaAdrian Waddle	Buffalo

SCOUTING THE PATRIOTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ENGLAND "While the Bill Belichick/Tom Brady combination seems unbeatable and never-ending, the 2018 season did show a number of cracks in their armor. They had a 1-2 start, got blown out by the Titans mid-year and then absorbed two December losses — yet Brady and his teammates saved their best for last during the playoff run. ... Brady looked mortal at times, but the offensive line allowed only 21 sacks all season. Trent Brown signed with the Raiders, so much will be expected of Isaiah Wynn. ... Sony Michel (931 rushing yards) and James White (87 receptions) provide a nifty backfield combo, but a huge hole exists with the retirement of Rob Gronkowski. He could come back in November, but if he does not, they did sign Austin Seferian-Jenkins. ... Demaryius Thomas was added to the wide receiver mix that is headlined by Julian Edelman and will include rookie N'Keal Harry and Phillip Dorsett. ... Trey Flowers left for Detroit, so they traded for Michael Bennett and are banking on Deatrich Wise (4.5 sacks) to increase his production with more playing time. ... Kyle Van Noy is another rags-to-riches example of scheme fit and coaching really making a difference for a player. ... Dont'a Hightower took a step back in 2018, but Elandon Roberts has been an excellent find for their scouting staff. ... The Patriots have an older secondary, but Stephon Gilmore is an elite matchup corner, while the McCorty twins, Patrick Chung and Duron Harmon are better as a collective unit than their individual talents would indicate. ... It's still the Patriots' world, and we are living in it for at least another year."



Patriots IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	N'Keal Harry	WR	6-2	228	Arizona State
2.	Joejuan Williams	CB	6-3	208	Vanderbilt
3.	Chase Winovich	DE	6-3	256	Michigan
3.	Damien Harris	RB	5-10	216	Alabama
3.	Yodny Cajuste	OT	6-5	312	West Virginia
4.	Hjalte Froholdt	OG	6-5	306	Arkansas
4.	Jarrett Stidham	QB	6-3	215	Auburn
5.	Byron Cowart	DL	6-3	298	Maryland
5.	Jake Bailey	P	6-2	202	Stanford
7.	Ken Webster	CB	5-11	203	Ole Miss

N'Keal Harry should contribute immediately. The wide receiver will be counted on to bring yards after the catch, but if he can be an asset in the red zone, even better. Joejuan Williams is the type of big corner whom Bill Belichick will use as a matchup chess piece against tight ends and bigger receivers. Chase Winovich may make the biggest early impact on the defensive side of the ball. Although he's on the small side, Winovich had a tremendous Scouting Combine showing, and some thought was a better player at Michigan than first-round pick and fellow defensive lineman Rashan Gary. Yodny Cajuste was another nice value at a position where depth was sorely needed, while Hjalte Froholdt joins a crowded interior offensive line room. Jarrett Stidham will challenge for a backup role.

Outside the Huddle

"INSTA"-NT RETIREMENT Rob Gronkowski announced his retirement over Instagram on March 24 with an image of him holding the Lombardi Trophy high above his head after the team's most recent Super Bowl win. He thanked Bill Belichick, Robert Kraft, the entire organization, the fans, and all of his "current and past teammates."

LOMBARDI SPIKE As the Patriots Twitter account jokingly said, Gronkowski also left a mark on the team's sixth Lombardi trophy. At the home opener for the Red Sox, Gronkowski and several other members of the team came out onto the field holding championship hardware. Gronkowski joked that he was going to use his to bat a ball, and his teammates did not believe him. But Gronkowski bunted one of the balls and left a dent in the trophy.

WELCOME TO TWITTER! Tom Brady joined Twitter in March and sent the Internet into a frenzy with his first tweet that read, "I'm retiring. In my spare time, I'll be tweeting #LFG". On a platform where sarcasm is not always obvious, it freaked out Patriots fans, and Brady next posted, "Was this a bad joke?" Brady was already up to over 455,000 followers as of early May.

WHO'S COACHING? There were some serious holes on the coaching staff in New England immediately following the NFL Draft. Due to some major departures, including the loss of Brian Flores to be the head man for the Miami Dolphins, there has been some turnover. Some new additions, reportedly, include former Patriots Jerod Mayo to coach linebackers, and DeMarcus Covington to lead the defensive line.

SCHIANO STEPPING AWAY In a related note, Greg Schiano was going to be the team's defensive coordinator after coming over from Ohio State, but the new partnership quickly evaporated. In late March, Schiano released a statement that he was leaving his post, that he needed to "spend more time on my faith and family." It was an odd exit, one that still puzzles media and fans alike.

NOT GIVING UP ON JOSH Even though wide receiver Josh Gordon remains suspended for violating the league's substance abuse policy, he signed his restricted free agent tender in April to stay with the team. It's a relatively low-risk move by the Patriots, as Gordon gave the team good production last year before his suspension, catching 40 passes for 720 yards (18.0 yards per reception) and three touchdowns.

DON'T MENTION IT Even though Brandon Bolden's return was extremely well received, the running back who played the 2018 season with the Dolphins remains mum on one subject. The "Miami Miracle" game last season where the Dolphins scored on a last-second, lateral-filled Hail Mary touchdown, is off limits. "I legit don't talk about it," Bolden cracked upon his return to Foxboro.

TROUBLE IN THE OWNER'S BOX Kraft was charged by Florida police with two counts of misdemeanor soliciting prostitution at a day spa in Jupiter. The police claim to have video of Kraft being caught in the act and have threatened to release it, while the Patriots owner and his attorneys are fighting the charges. The alleged acts occurred the weekend of the AFC Championship Game against the Kansas City Chiefs.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	12	🏆
2015	12	🏆
2016	14	🏆
2017	13	🏆
2018	11	🏆

🏆 Playoffs 🏆 Won Super Bowl

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.31

The Patriots had the third-highest average lead per offensive possession, at 3.31 points.

5.61

New England averaged just 5.61 plays per defensive drive, the third fewest in the NFL.

3.8

The Pats ranked first in Adjusted Sack Rate, allowing sacks on just 3.8 percent of their offensive drop-backs.



New York JETS

AFC East Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Christopher Johnson
President: Neil Glat
General Manager: Mike Maccagnan
Director Football Administration: Dave Socie
Stadium: MetLife Stadium (82,500)
Surface: UBU Speed S5-M
Website: www.newyorkjets.com
Tickets: 800-469-JETS (5387)
Training Camp: Atlantic Health Jets Training Center (Florham Park, N.J.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Adam Gase
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 23-25
Offensive Coordinator/QBs: Dowell Loggains
Defensive Coordinator: Gregg Williams
Special Teams Coordinator: Brant Boyer
Assistant Head Coach Offense/WRs: Shawn Jefferson
Assistant Head Coach Defense/ILBs: Frank Bush
Running Backs: Jim Bob Cooter
Tight Ends: John Dunn
Offensive Line: Frank Pollack
Defensive Line: Andre Carter
Senior Defensive Assistant/OLBs: Joe Vitt
Passing Game Coordinator/DBs: Dennard Wilson

After three straight dismal seasons that produced a combined 14 wins, 2019 is a critical year for the Jets — and especially for general manager Mike Maccagnan. This is Year 3 of the Jets' rebuild, and progress has appeared scant. It's time for the Jets to deliver some actual results, in the first year for coach Adam Gase and the second for prized quarterback Sam Darnold, who supposedly will benefit from Gase's arrival.

If the Jets don't win at least seven games, Maccagnan will probably be gone. But with Darnold progressing and Maccagnan adding big-ticket free agents such as running back Le'Veon Bell and inside linebacker C.J. Mosley, can the Jets perhaps do better than 7-9 — and reach the playoffs for the first time since 2010?

If they do, they'll easily save Maccagnan's job. If they don't — and continue their longest playoff drought since 1970-80 — then Gase could wind up working under a new general manager in 2020.

OFFENSE The big story is Darnold. The No. 3 overall pick in 2018 worked this offseason on quieting his feet in the pocket. He believes this will be a big key to improving his accuracy and results in 2019. (He finished his rookie year 31st in the NFL in quarterback rating.) "Just calm down a little bit in the pocket," Darnold says of his offseason goal.

After Darnold missed three games due to a foot injury, he returned and performed well in the season's final four games, during which he had six touchdowns, one interception and a 99.1 rating. Now, can he build on that? He'll certainly have more help.

The Jets gave Bell \$52.5 million over four years, including \$27 million guaranteed. Based on his track record, expect Bell to help Darnold almost as much in the passing game (as a check-down option) as he does in the running game.

Slot receiver Jamison Crowder was a less-hyped free agency addition, but in Gase's offense the slot receiver plays an important role. Crowder, who has caught at least 59 passes in each season he has played at least 15 games, and second-year tight end Chris Herndon could both be valuable assets for Darnold out of the slot.

Crowder's arrival is nice, but if Robby Anderson doesn't prove to be more than a deep threat and Quincy Enunwa doesn't stay healthy (both uncertainties), it'll be a down year for the Jets' receiving group. Anderson caught 50 passes for 752 yards and six scores while missing two games in his third season in the league. He has averaged just around 15.0 yards per reception in each of the last two seasons. Enunwa missed five games and saw his receptions dip from 58 in 2017 to 38 last season.

The Jets' offensive line was a mess last season, largely because of center Spencer Long's

struggles. The Jets rolled the dice by not making a big-splash addition to replace him. Instead, they'll go with Jonotthan Harrison, who played well after replacing Long last season but is unproven over the long haul. The Jets hope left guard Kelechi Osemele — who arrived via a trade with Oakland and should be a major upgrade over James Carpenter — can steer things on the interior of the line. Still, the line remains a large question mark for this offense.

And fixing an offense that finished last season 28th in Football Outsiders' DVOA ratings is the top priority for Gase. That's why the Jets hired him. That, and to develop Darnold. Is Gase, who failed in Miami, up to the task?

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	
Sept. 16	Cleveland (Mon.)	8:15	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Sept. 22	at New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
BYE								
Oct. 6	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)	
Oct. 13	Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)	
Oct. 21	New England (Mon.)	8:15	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
Oct. 27	at Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (41)	
Nov. 3	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Nov. 10	N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)	
Nov. 17	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)	
Nov. 24	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)	
Dec. 1	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Dec. 8	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Dec. 12	at Baltimore (Thu.)	8:20	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Dec. 22	Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)	
Dec. 29	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	



QB **SAM DARNOLD**



2018 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 10	at Detroit	W	48-17
Sept. 16	Miami	L	12-20
Sept. 20	at Cleveland	L	17-21
Sept. 30	at Jacksonville	L	12-31
Oct. 7	Denver	W	34-16
Oct. 14	Indianapolis	W	42-34
Oct. 21	Minnesota	L	17-37
Oct. 28	at Chicago	L	10-24
Nov. 4	at Miami	L	6-13
Nov. 11	Buffalo	L	10-41
Nov. 25	New England	L	13-27
Dec. 2	at Tennessee	L	22-26
Dec. 9	at Buffalo	W	27-23
Dec. 15	Houston	L	22-29
Dec. 23	Green Bay (ot)	L	38-44
Dec. 30	at New England	L	3-38

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Sam Darnold	414	239	2,865	17	15
Josh McCown	110	60	539	1	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Isaiah Crowell	143	685	4.8	6	
Bilal Powell	80	343	4.3	0	
Elijah McGuire	92	276	3.0	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Robby Anderson	50	752	15.0	6	
Chris Herndon	39	502	12.9	4	
Quincy Enunwa	38	449	11.8	1	
Jermaine Kearse	37	371	10.0	1	
Terrelle Pryor	14	235	16.8	2	

KICKING: Jason Myers, 33-36 FGs, 30-33 PAT, 129 points

TACKLES: Avery Williamson, 120; Jamal Adams, 115

SACKS: Henry Anderson, 7.0; Jordan Jenkins, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Trumaine Johnson, 4; Darron Lee, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	299.2	29	14
Rushing	101.4	26	15
Passing	197.8	25	12
Scoring	20.8	23	10
Third Down %	32.2	29	14
Punt Returns	13.0	1	1
Kick Returns	26.9	3	3
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	380.4	25	11
Rushing	126.3	26	11
Passing	254.1	24	12
Scoring	27.6	29	14
Interceptions	13	T15	T10
Sacks	39	T16	T6
Turnover Differential	-10	27	14

DEFENSE If Darnold is the star of the Jets' offense, you could make the case that fiery coordinator Gregg Williams is the star of their defense. Yes, that's how much Jets fans are expecting out of Williams, as he takes over a defense that finished 21st in DVOA last year.

The major questions for Williams start up front. How is he going to establish a pass rush without an elite edge rusher? Jordan Jenkins, Brandon Copeland and rookie Jachai Polite don't exactly qualify for that title.

Williams must hope rookie defensive tackle Quinnen Williams, the third overall pick, can push the pocket from the middle and free up Leonard Williams from double teams.

But here's the thing: If the Jets' secondary can't cover, it won't really matter how effective the pass rush is. Along with center and edge rusher, the Jets also still have significant uncertainty at the outside cornerback spot opposite Trumaine Johnson. They let Morris Claiborne walk in free agency. And, much like center, they promoted a backup (Darryl Roberts) to replace him.

Then again, after Johnson's brutal debut as the Jets' big-money cornerback in 2018, maybe they should be more worried about him. The Jets are hoping Johnson's reunion with Gregg Williams boosts his production. Williams was the coordinator for four of Johnson's six seasons with the Rams (2012, 2014-16). He helped mold Johnson, who was a rookie in 2012.

While edge pass rush and back-end coverage are two notable issues for the Jets' defense, their two biggest leaders — Mosley (a highly respected veteran) and safety Jamal Adams (a vocal, blossoming star) — should provide some stability. The Jets consider Mosley one of the NFL's best leaders. They believe he has the ability to transform a young locker room. (They guaranteed him \$51 million to do that and more.) Adams appears on his way to being a perennial Pro Bowler.

Mosley's arrival as the middle linebacker will push Avery Williamson to the weak-side role — and push former first-round pick Darron Lee (a weak-side linebacker) to backup duty (though the Jets could also trade him).

SPECIALISTS The Jets made a couple questionable free agency decisions on special teams, as they let returner Andre Roberts and kicker Jason Myers walk. Both were Pro Bowlers last season. The Jets brought back Chandler Catanzaro, their kicker in 2017, to replace Myers. But they still have a hole at returner. The job is open entering training camp. Second-year running back Trenton Cannon appears the leading candidate. But he needs to demonstrate better ball security than he did last year in training camp, when fumbles cost him a job that Roberts seized and held all year.

Special teams coordinator Brant Boyer deserves credit for an impressive turnaround last season, when the Jets finished first in special teams DVOA, compared to 25th in 2017. With two key pieces (Myers and Roberts) gone in 2019, Boyer faces a big challenge to replicate that success.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jets still have holes. But they made enough improvements in free agency this offseason — or threw enough money around, at least — to expect much better than 4-12 in 2019. (In terms of the draft, Quinnen Williams is their only surething, immediate-impact pick.)

Maccagnan's lackluster mid-round drafting has left his roster still not really looking like a serious playoff contender. But the Jets hope a better coaching staff will mean that a couple of last season's close, agonizing losses will go the other way this season.

Gase is a definite upgrade over offensive coordinator Jeremy Bates, whom players openly criticized after last season. And former head coach Todd Bowles never proved to be much of a defensive wizard. Will Gregg Williams live up to his reputation for being just that?

Expect the Jets to at least be in the mix for a playoff spot in November, especially if they can survive a brutal early schedule that includes the Browns, Eagles, Cowboys and Patriots (twice) in the first six games. An AFC East title might not happen for Gase in Year 1, but it's not unreasonable to expect him to challenge for a wild card spot.



JAMAL ADAMS



2019 VETERAN JETS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
14	Darnold, Sam	QB	6-3	225	1 USC	D1-18	D1-NYJ-18
	Falk, Luke	QB	6-4	215	1 Washington State	W-Mia-19	D6-Ten-18
19	Siemian, Trevor	QB	6-3	220	4 Northwestern	FA-Min-19	D7a-Den-15
5	Webb, Davis	QB	6-5	225	2 California	FA-18	D3-NYG-17
RUNNING BACKS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
26	Bell, Le'Veon	RB	6-1	225	5 Michigan State	FA-Pit-19	D2-Pit-13
40	Cannon, Trenton	RB	5-11	185	1 Virginia State	D6c-18	D6c-NYJ-18
35	Henderson, DeAngelo	RB	5-7	208	2 Coastal Carolina	FA-18	D6-Den-17
	Holmes, Valentine	RB	6-1	200	1 None	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
25	McGuire, Elijah	RB	5-10	214	2 UL Lafayette	D6a-17	D6a-NYJ-17
	Montgomery, Ty	RB	6-0	216	4 Stanford	FA-Bal-19	D3-GB-15
RECEIVERS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
11	Anderson, Robby	WR	6-3	190	3 Temple	FA-16	FA-NYJ-16
15	Bellamy, Joshua	WR	6-0	208	4 Louisville	FA-Chi-19	FA-KC-12
87	Brown, Daniel	TE	6-5	247	4 James Madison	FA-Chi-19	FA-Bal-15
18	Burnett, Deontay	WR	6-0	186	1 USC	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
3	Coley, Stacy	WR	6-0	195	2 Miami	FA-19	D7-Min-17
82	Crowder, Jamison	WR	5-9	177	4 Duke	FA-Was-19	D4a-Was-15
81	Enunwa, Quincy	WR	6-2	225	4 Nebraska	D6b-14	D6b-NYJ-14
10	Henderson, Quadree	WR	5-8	192	1 Pittsburgh	W-NYG-19	FA-Pit-18
89	Herndon, Chris	TE	6-4	253	1 Miami	D4-18	D4-NYJ-18
84	Jones, J.J.	WR	5-10	174	1 West Georgia	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
86	Leggett, Jordan	TE	6-5	258	2 Clemson	D5a-17	D5a-NYJ-17
17	Peake, Charone	WR	6-2	209	3 Clemson	D7b-16	D7b-NYJ-16
85	Sterling, Neal	TE	6-4	257	4 Monmouth	FA-17	D7-Jac-15
83	Tomlinson, Eric	TE	6-6	263	3 UTEP	FA-16	FA-Phi-15
6	White, Tim	WR	5-10	175	1 Arizona State	FA-19	FA-Bal-17
16	Yancy, DeAngelo	WR	6-1	220	1 Purdue	FA-18	D5-GB-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
68	Beachum, Kelvin	T	6-3	308	7 SMU	FA-Jac-17	D7-Pit-12
69	Braden, Ben	OL	6-6	329	1 Michigan	FA-17	FA-NYJ-17
77	Compton, Tom	G	6-6	315	7 South Dakota	FA-Min-19	D6-Was-12
78	Harrison, Jonotthan	OL	6-4	300	5 Florida	FA-17	FA-Ind-14
76	Joseph, Dieugot	T	6-6	300	1 FIU	FA-18	FA-Chi-17
70	Osemele, Kelechi	G/T	6-5	307	7 Iowa State	T-Oak-19	D2b-Bal-12
79	Ovale, Brent	OL	6-7	315	4 Nebraska	FA-14	FA-NYJ-14
72	Shell, Brandon	T	6-5	324	3 South Carolina	D5-16	D5-NYJ-16
65	Smith, Eric	T	6-4	308	2 Virginia	FA-18	FA-Mia-17
64	Toth, Jon	C	6-5	298	1 Kentucky	FA-18	FA-Phi-17
67	Winters, Brian	G	6-4	320	6 Kent State	D3-13	D3-NYJ-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96	Anderson, Henry	DL	6-6	301	4 Stanford	T-Ind-18	D3-Ind-15
94	Fatukasi, Folorunso	DL	6-4	318	1 Connecticut	D6b-18	D6b-NYJ-18
91	Kaufusi, Bronson	DL	6-6	275	3 BYU	FA-18	D3-Bal-16
99	McLendon, Steve	DL	6-3	310	9 Troy	FA-Pit-16	FA-Pit-09
97	Shepherd, Nathan	DL	6-4	315	1 Fort Hays State	D3-18	D3-NYJ-18
	Tappler, Charles	DL	6-3	270	1 Oklahoma	FA-19	D4-Dal-16
92	Williams, Leonard	DL	6-5	302	4 USC	D1-15	D1-NYJ-15
LINEBACKERS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93	Basham, Tarell	LB	6-4	266	2 Ohio	W-Ind-18	D3-Ind-17
51	Copeland, Brandon	LB	6-3	263	4 Pennsylvania	FA-18	FA-Bal-13
46	Hewitt, Neville	LB	6-2	234	4 Marshall	FA-18	FA-Mia-15
48	Jenkins, Jordan	LB	6-3	259	3 Georgia	D3-16	D3-NYJ-16
44	Langi, Harvey	LB	6-2	250	1 BYU	FA-19	FA-NE-17
58	Lee, Darron	LB	6-1	232	3 Ohio State	D1-16	D1-NYJ-16
50	Luvu, Frankie	LB	6-3	236	1 Washington State	FA-18	FA-NYJ-18
57	Mosley, C.J.	LB	6-2	250	5 Alabama	FA-Bal-19	D1-Bal-14
54	Williamson, Avery	LB	6-1	246	5 Kentucky	FA-Ten-18	D5-Ten-14
52	Wint, Anthony	LB	6-0	224	1 FIU	FA-18	FA-NYJ-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33	Adams, Jamal	S	6-1	213	2 LSU	D1-17	D1-NYJ-17
38	Bryant, Brandon	S	6-0	215	1 Mississippi State	FA-18	FA-NYJ-18
35	Campbell, Tevaughn	DB	6-0	195	1 Regina	FA-19	FA-NYJ-19
23	Clark, Jeremy	CB	6-3	220	2 Michigan	D6b-17	D6b-NYJ-17
22	Johnson, Trumaine	CB	6-2	213	7 Montana	FA-LAR-18	D3-LAR-12
31	Jones, Derrick	CB	6-2	188	2 Ole Miss	D6c-17	D6c-NYJ-17
37	Maullet, Arthur	CB	5-10	190	2 Memphis	FA-19	FA-19
20	Maye, Marcus	S	6-0	207	2 Florida	D2-17	D2-NYJ-17
36	Middleton, Doug	S	6-0	210	2 Appalachian State	FA-16	FA-NYJ-16
45	Miles, Rontez	S	6-0	203	4 California (PA)	FA-13	FA-NYJ-13
43	Nickerson, Parry	CB	5-10	182	1 Tulane	D6a-18	D6a-NYJ-18
34	Poole, Brian	CB	5-10	211	3 Florida	FA-Atl-19	FA-Atl-16
27	Roberts, Darryl	DB	6-0	182	4 Marshall	W-NE-16	D7-NE-15
30	Robinson, Rashard	CB	6-2	177	3 LSU	T-SF-17	D4-SF-16
SPECIALISTS							
	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Catanzaro, Chandler	K	6-3	200	5 Clemson	FA-Car-19	FA-Ari-14
4	Edwards, Lachlan	P	6-4	209	3 Sam Houston St.	D7a-16	D7a-NYJ-16
42	Hennessy, Thomas	LS	6-2	246	2 Duke	T-Ind-17	FA-Ind-17

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Robby Anderson	15	Josh Bellamy
WR	81	Quincy Enunwa	17	Charone Peake
WR	82	Jamison Crowder	18	Deontay Burnett
LT	68	Kelvin Beachum	79	Brent Vuale
LG	70	Kelechi Osemele	77	Tom Compton
C	78	Jonotthan Harrison	64	Jon Toth
RG	67	Brian Winters	69	Ben Braden
RT	72	Brandon Shell		Chuma Edoga (R)
TE	89	Chris Herndon	86	Jordan Leggett
QB	14	Sam Darnold	19	Trevor Siemian
RB	26	Le'Veon Bell		Ty Montgomery

DEFENSE

DE	92	Leonard Williams	94	Foley Fatukasi
DT		Quinnen Williams (R)	99	Steve McLendon
DE	96	Henry Anderson	97	Nathan Shepherd
OLB	51	Brandon Copeland		Jachai Polite (R)
ILB	57	C.J. Mosley	46	Neville Hewitt
ILB	54	Avery Williamson	58	Darron Lee
OLB	48	Jordan Jenkins	50	Frankie Luvu
CB	27	Darryl Roberts	34	Brian Poole
CB	22	Trumaine Johnson	31	Derrick Jones
FS	20	Marcus Maye	36	Doug Middleton
SS	33	Jamal Adams	45	Rontez Miles

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Chandler Catanzaro	KR	40	Trenton Cannon
P	4	Lachlan Edwards	PR	40	Trenton Cannon

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
RB	Le'Veon Bell	Pittsburgh
K	Chandler Catanzaro	Carolina
WR	Jamison Crowder	Washington
RB	Ty Montgomery	Baltimore
ILB	C.J. Mosley	Baltimore
OG	Kelechi Osemele	Oakland
CB	Brian Poole	Atlanta
QB	Trevor Siemian	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
OG	James Carpenter	Atlanta
CB	Morris Claiborne	Free Agent
C	Spencer Long	Buffalo
K	Jason Myers	Seattle
WR	Andre Roberts	Buffalo
CB	Buster Skrine	Chicago

SCOUTING THE JETS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "In a very unusual move, GM Mike Maccagnan and ownership tabbed a failed divisional rival's coach as their new leader in the Dolphins' Adam Gase. He has much to prove as a communicator to the entire team and media, but the idea is that he can elevate the play of franchise QB hopeful Sam Darnold. ... In 13 starts, Darnold flashed his potential, but still only hit 57.7 percent while tossing 17 touchdowns and 15 interceptions. ... They aggressively paid Le'Veon Bell, and he fills a huge need for them as a runner and receiver. He has never played behind an offensive line this suspect, so that is something to watch. ... Chris Herndon jumped out as a rookie tight end with 39 catches. ... Robby Anderson is their vertical threat, and after a quiet offseason, should increase his production. They lost Andre Roberts to the Bills in free agency after he earned All-Pro honors as a punt and kickoff returner. ... Gase hired Gregg Williams as DC, so expect them to be more disruptive in the front, meaning more freedom for Leonard Williams to get upfield. Henry Anderson is as solid as you can find as a five-technique end. They wisely stayed at No. 3 in the draft and chose Quinnen Williams. ... Maccagnan spent a fortune on C.J. Mosley and made him the highest-paid inside linebacker in league history at \$17 million per season. ... Jamal Adams earned a Pro Bowl spot with 115 tackles and should only raise his profile in 2019. ... If Gase can maximize Darnold's assets and reduce his turnovers, this team has a chance to reach .500 with an eye towards the playoffs in 2020."



B+

Jets

IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Quinnen Williams	DT	6-3	303	Alabama
3.	Jachai Polite	OLB	6-3	258	Florida
3.	Chuma Edoga	OT	6-3	308	USC
4.	Trevon Wesco	TE	6-3	267	West Virginia
5.	Blake Cashman	LB	6-1	237	Minnesota
6.	Blessuan Austin	CB	6-1	198	Rutgers

Quinnen Williams is the star of this class — maybe the best overall player in the draft this year — and he is the only Jets pick who surely will have an immediate impact in 2019. Jachai Polite is a risky pick (character concerns) who looks like more of a project player. He will probably be a situational pass-rusher in 2019. The Jets will try to get their pass rush up the middle, with Williams, instead of exclusively on the edges. Chuma Edoga could eventually replace left tackle Kelvin Beachum or right tackle Brandon Shell, since both are set to become free agents after this season. Trevon Wesco is a big tight end and former basketball player who improved his blocking at West Virginia. Blake Cashman is a versatile linebacker who should contribute on special teams. Blessuan Austin missed most of his final two seasons at Rutgers due to injuries.



Outside the Huddle

MAKING NOISE Le'Veon Bell doesn't just rap as a hobby. He actually released an album called "Life's a Gamble" in March. Back in August 2018, he put out an album called "My Side Of Things." And then he famously sat out the entire 2018 season while he was engaged in a contract dispute with the Pittsburgh Steelers. Maybe his time with the Jets will inspire some new music from him.

KICKING INTO GEAR Part of Leonard Williams' offseason training involved martial arts work — jujitsu in particular. Williams' goal with the workouts was to get quicker and more explosive as a pass rusher. He has just 17 sacks in 64 career games, but it's not like he has been a nonfactor as a pass rusher (85 quarterback hits). He is entering a contract year in 2019.

SLIMMING DOWN Kelechi Osemele understands that he can't carry as much weight as he gets older. So the left guard — who turns 30 in June and is entering Year 8 in the NFL — went on a ketogenic diet this offseason. Osemele dropped from 330 pounds to 307 this offseason. He wants to play at 315 pounds in 2019.

BIG GOALS Receiver Robby Anderson has never reached 1,000 yards for a season during his career. The closest he came was 941 yards in 2017. But he thinks he "definitely" should reach the 1,000-yard milestone this year. For one thing, it's his first true contract year. "My eyes are on the prize more than ever," he says, not shying away from talking about trying to cash in next offseason.

NEW THREAD The Jets have new uniforms in 2019. They're sleeker and include a darker shade of green, plus a third (all-black) uniform. They unveiled the uniforms this offseason at a flashy midtown Manhattan event hosted by comedian J.B. Smoove from "Curb Your Enthusiasm." But as acting owner Christopher Johnson said of fans' reactions to the uniform, "They'll like it a hell of a lot more if we win games."

BROTHERLY LOVE In one of their most prominent offseason moves, the Jets gave C.J. Mosley a massive contract that included \$51 million in guaranteed money. In one of their quieter moves, they signed Mosley's younger brother as an undrafted free agent (with a \$3,000 signing bonus). Like C.J., Jamey Mosley is a linebacker who played at Alabama.

RARE PICK Rutgers is the closest Power 5 conference school to the Jets and Giants, geographically. But before the Jets drafted cornerback Blessuan Austin in Round 6 this spring, neither New York-area team had picked a Rutgers player since 1967, when the Jets took flanker Jack Emmer. The Giants last drafted a Rutgers player in 1960 (linebacker Bob Simms).

PROFESSOR COPELAND Outside linebacker Brandon Copeland, a graduate of Penn's Wharton Business School, is one of the Jets' most cerebral players. So, not surprisingly, he taught a class this offseason at Penn, focused on financial literacy. Copeland, a wise and frugal investor, has earned \$2.861 million in his six-year career. He is due to make \$1.75 million in 2019.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

15.1

The Jets converted 15.1 percent of their offensive drives into touchdowns, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

-1.68

The Jets' average deficit per defensive possession was -1.68, the fifth highest in the NFL.

26.1

Jets running backs were stuffed for a loss or no gain on a league-high 26.1 percent of their carries.



Baltimore RAVENS

AFC North Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Stephen J. Bisciotti
President: Richard W. Cass
General Manager/Executive VP: Eric DeCosta
Senior VP of Football Admin.: Pat Moriarty
Stadium: M&T Bank Stadium (71,008)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.baltimoreravens.com
Tickets: 410-261-RAVE (7283)
Training Camp: Under Armour Performance Center (Owings Mills, Md.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: John Harbaugh
Record With Team: 104-72
Career Record: 104-72
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Roman
Defensive Coordinator: Don Martindale
Associate Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator: Jerry Rosburg
Assistant Head Coach/Wide Receivers/Pass Coordinator: David Culley
Quarterbacks: James Urban
Running Backs: Matt Weiss
Tight Ends: Bobby Engram
Offensive Line: Joe D'Alessandris
Defensive Line: Joe Cullen
Linebackers: Mike Macdonald
Secondary: Chris Hewitt

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Sept. 15	Arizona	1:00	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Sept. 22	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Sept. 29	Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Oct. 6	at Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)
Oct. 13	Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Oct. 20	at Seattle	4:25	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)
BYE							
Nov. 3	New England	8:20	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Nov. 10	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Nov. 17	Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)
Nov. 25	at L.A. Rams (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Dec. 1	San Francisco	1:00	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Dec. 8	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Dec. 12	N.Y. Jets (Thu.)	8:20	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Dec. 22	at Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Dec. 29	Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)

Hope was fading fast as the Ravens entered their Week 10 bye last season. They had lost their third straight game, falling under .500. A fourth straight post-season absence appeared likely. Coach John Harbaugh's future in Baltimore was bleak. And the worst news had yet to emerge: Quarterback Joe Flacco had injured his hip in the Week 9 loss. He was out; rookie Lamar Jackson was in.

The Ravens' late-season push was as transformational as it was unlikely. Led by a run-heavy offense and a stifling defense, the Ravens won six of their final seven games and claimed their first AFC North title since 2012.

Even after a dispiriting home playoff loss, the future in Baltimore was clear. It included Harbaugh and Jackson, but not Flacco. Now the Ravens must show that the league hasn't caught up to their rushing attack — and that their defense hasn't fallen off, either.

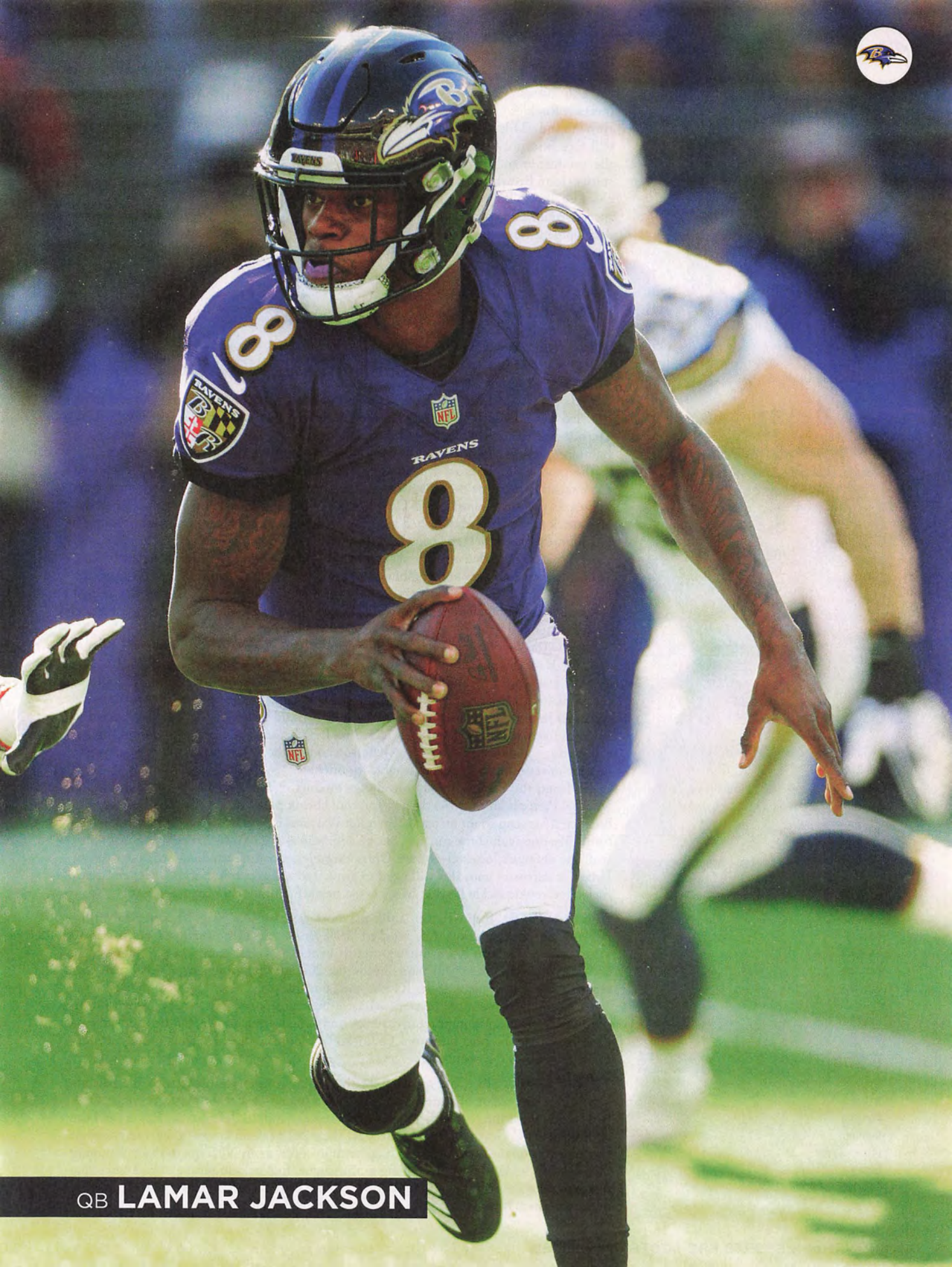
OFFENSE Few quarterbacks have had a rookie season as unique as Jackson's. In his first start, the former Heisman Trophy winner ran for 117 yards, at the time the second most by a rookie quarterback since 1970 (Josh Allen topped it two weeks later). It took only another six starts for him to break the single-season NFL record for rushing attempts by a quarterback (147). The Ravens' approach was novel — no team came close to running the ball as often as they did over the second half of the season — but effective enough. They dominated time of possession with methodical drives, often befuddling defenses with a mix of zone-read and run-pass-option plays.

The offense will look different in 2019. Harbaugh promoted Greg Roman, the architect of the team's running game, to offensive coordinator, replacing Marty Mornhinweg. Roman has pledged more balance, but his overhaul will likely keep in place many of Jackson's pet plays. The Ravens do not mind being different. Even as modern offenses increasingly rely on their passing attacks, expect the Ravens to keep grinding away on the ground.

Defenses will have the offseason to figure out how to bottle up the Ravens' backfield, but it won't be easy. Much like Alex Collins in 2017, running back Gus Edwards emerged from the anonymity of the team's practice squad to become one of the offense's most reliable performers. A physical downhill runner, he'll compete for the starting job with free agent signing Mark Ingram, a dangerous receiving threat and highly respected leader. Rookie Justice Hill could also give the Ravens a big-play threat in the open field.

The team's often-overlooked offensive line could take another big step forward. Only five teams allowed fewer sacks last season, though the Ravens' move away from a pass-first approach certainly helped. Bookend tackles Ronnie Stanley, a Pro Bowl alternate in 2018, and Orlando Brown Jr. give the Ravens one of the NFL's best young pairings, and All-Pro Marshal Yanda remains among the league's best right guards. The Ravens could continue to have problems inside, but coaches remain confident in center Matt Skura and left guard James Hurst. Nick Boyle, a hybrid tight end-fullback, is also an asset in the team's blocking schemes.

If the Ravens have passing problems, it likely won't be because of their other tight ends. Mark Andrews had a standout rookie season, and hopes remain high for 2018 first-round pick Hayden Hurst, who struggled to recover from a preseason stress fracture in his foot. Wide receiver is another matter. Willie Snead IV is a productive slot receiver, but Chris Moore and free agent



QB **LAMAR JACKSON**



2018 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 9	Buffalo	W	47-3
Sept. 13	at Cincinnati	L	23-34
Sept. 23	Denver	W	27-14
Sept. 30	at Pittsburgh	W	26-14
Oct. 7	at Cleveland (ot)	L	9-12
Oct. 14	at Tennessee	W	21-0
Oct. 21	New Orleans	L	23-24
Oct. 28	at Carolina	L	21-36
Nov. 4	Pittsburgh	L	16-23
Nov. 18	Cincinnati	W	24-21
Nov. 25	Oakland	W	34-17
Dec. 2	at Atlanta	W	26-16
Dec. 9	at Kansas City (ot)	L	24-27
Dec. 16	Tampa Bay	W	20-12
Dec. 22	at L.A. Chargers	W	22-10
Dec. 30	Cleveland	W	26-24
Postseason			
Jan. 6	L.A. Chargers	L	17-23

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Joe Flacco	379	232	2,465	12	6
Lamar Jackson	170	99	1,201	6	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Gus Edwards	137	718	5.2	2
Lamar Jackson	147	695	4.7	5
Alex Collins	114	411	3.6	7
Kenneth Dixon	60	333	5.6	2

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
John Brown	42	715	17.0	5
Willie Snead	62	651	10.5	1
Michael Crabtree	54	607	11.2	3
Mark Andrews	34	552	16.2	3

KICKING: Justin Tucker, 35-39 FGs, 36-37 PAT, 141 points

TACKLES: C.J. Mosley, 105; Tony Jefferson, 74

SACKS: Za'Darius Smith, 8.5; two tied with 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: three tied with 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	374.9	9	5
Rushing	152.6	2	1
Passing	222.4	22	10
Scoring	24.3	13	7
Third Down %	45.0	6	3
Punt Returns	11.5	5	4
Kick Returns	22.1	18	10

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	292.9	1	1
Rushing	82.9	4	2
Passing	210.0	5	3
Scoring	17.9	2	1
Interceptions	12	T18	T12
Sacks	43	T11	T4
Turnover Differential	-3	22	11

signing Seth Roberts project only as complementary pieces. Rookies Marquise Brown and Miles Boykin will face pressure to replace the production of departed starters John Brown and Michael Crabtree. The offense's success could hinge on their development and Jackson's evolution into a more fundamentally sound passer.

DEFENSE The Ravens led the NFL last season in total defense and finished behind only the Chicago Bears in scoring defense. Then the offseason struck.

The Jets gave C.J. Mosley the biggest deal ever for an inside linebacker. Za'Darius Smith, who led the Ravens in sacks, signed a lucrative contract with the Green Bay Packers. Outside linebacker Terrell Suggs left to join the Arizona Cardinals after 16 seasons in Baltimore. Safety Eric Weddle was cut. Defensive end Brent Urban was not re-signed.

The exodus should most acutely affect the team's linebacking corps. Mosley was not just a tackling machine over his five years with the Ravens but also an important voice in the team's pre-snap adjustments. Coordinator Don "Wink" Martindale will have to rely on Patrick Onwuasor, who flashed his star potential late last season, and Kenny Young, a 2018 fourth-round pick, to keep the Ravens strong up the middle. Out wide, they'll take a step back. Suggs faded over the second half of last season, and Smith struggled at times against the run, but they still combined for more than a third of the Ravens' 43 sacks last season (tied for 11th most in the NFL). Matthew Judon is primed to collect double-digit sacks this season, but the team needs rookie Jaylon Ferguson and third-year pass rushers Tyus Bowser and Tim Williams to pick up the slack.

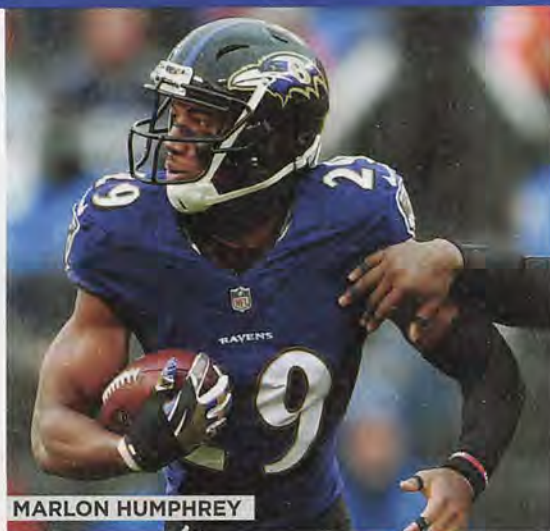
Even with Weddle's departure, the Ravens' pass defense remains a strength. The signing of safety Earl Thomas should help solve their takeaway problems — the defense had just 17 total last season — and bolster a veteran secondary. Cornerback Marlon Humphrey was consistently elite last season, and there aren't many better options to test. Brandon Carr and Jimmy Smith are physical, savvy veterans, and Tavon Young will be expected to perform like the well-compensated nickel back he became this offseason. With Thomas expected to roam deep, safeties Tony Jefferson and Anthony Levine Sr. can move closer to the line of scrimmage and cause trouble for offenses.

Up front, the Ravens are almost always productive, if rarely flashy. Defensive tackle Michael Pierce is an analytics darling and could break out as one of the NFL's top interior linemen if his snap count increases. Brandon Williams is paid like a top-15 tackle and performs like one against the run, too, but his limitations as a pass rusher could be magnified with the defense's losses elsewhere. Chris Wormley, a natural candidate to take over for Urban at defensive end, also will need to grow into a bigger role. Second-year end Zach Sieler and rookie tackle Daylon Mack could be useful rotational players.

SPECIALISTS Justin Tucker is still the most accurate field goal kicker in NFL history (90.1 percent) and, excluding blocked kicks, hasn't missed an attempt from inside 50 yards since 2015. Sam Koch finished fourth in the NFL last season in punting average and pinned nearly half of his punts inside the 20-yard line. Long snapper Morgan Cox remains an essential piece of the Ravens' special teams plans.

At returner, there's more mystery. Midseason acquisition Cyrus Jones finished fourth in the NFL last year in punt return average and added a touchdown, but he needs to ease concerns about potential turnovers. On kickoffs, Moore is sure-handed but rarely a threat to break out into the open field.

FINAL ANALYSIS The spectacle of the Ravens' unexpected march to the playoffs last season somewhat obscured just how well-rounded of a team they'd become. Only two teams ended the year with a top-10 offense and a top-10 defense: the Ravens and the dethroned AFC North champion Steelers. Their 2019 season is sure to be a referendum on the team's offense and Jackson's long-term prospects as an NFL quarterback. Running quarterbacks seldom run for very long in the league, and Jackson must show he can strike fear into defenses with his arm, too. If the offense can't succeed against defenses now far better prepared, it won't matter how strong the Ravens' defense and special teams are.



MARLON HUMPHREY



2019 VETERAN RAVENS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Griffin III, Robert	QB	6-2	213	6	Baylor	FA-18	D1-Was-12
8 Jackson, Lamar	QB	6-2	212	1	Louisville	D1b-18	D1b-Bal-18
RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30 Dixon, Kenneth	RB	5-10	228	3	Louisiana Tech	D4e-16	D4e-Bal-16
35 Edwards, Gus	RB	6-1	238	1	Rutgers	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
39 Ervin, Tyler	RB	5-10	182	3	San Jose State	FA-18	D4-Hou-16
45 Ezeala, Christopher	FB	5-11	248	1	None	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
21 Ingram II, Mark	RB	5-9	215	8	Alabama	FA-NO-19	D1b-NO-11
47 Turner, De'Lance	RB	5-11	214	1	Alcorn State	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16 Adebayojo, Quincy	WR	6-3	200	1	Ole Miss	FA-17	FA-Bal-17
89 Andrews, Mark	TE	6-5	256	1	Oklahoma	D3b-18	D3b-Bal-18
86 Boyle, Nick	TE	6-4	270	4	Delaware	D5a-15	D5a-Bal-15
81 Hurst, Hayden	TE	6-4	245	1	South Carolina	D1a-18	D1a-Bal-18
82 Keizer, Nick	TE	6-4	251	1	Grand Valley State	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
17 Lasley, Jordan	WR	6-1	213	1	UCLA	D5-18	D5-Bal-18
10 Moore, Chris	WR	6-1	200	3	Cincinnati	D4b-16	D4b-Bal-16
11 Roberts, Seth	WR	6-2	195	4	West Alabama	FA-Oak-19	FA-Oak-14
12 Scott, Jaleel	WR	6-5	210	1	New Mexico State	D4c-18	D4c-Bal-18
83 Snead IV, Willie	WR	5-11	205	4	Ball State	FA-NO-18	FA-Cle-14
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
63 Amichia, Kofi	G	6-3	304	1	South Florida	FA-18	D6-GB-17
77 Bozeman, Bradley	C	6-5	317	1	Alabama	D6c-18	D6c-Bal-18
78 Brown Jr., Orlando	T	6-8	345	1	Oklahoma	D3a-18	D3a-Bal-18
60 Crecelius, Randin	G/T	6-5	300	1	Portland State	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
71 Eluemunor, Jermaine	G/T	6-4	335	2	Texas A&M	D5-17	D5-Bal-17
74 Hurst, James	G/T	6-5	310	5	North Carolina	FA-14	FA-Bal-14
72 Lewis, Alex	G/T	6-6	305	3	Nebraska	D4c-16	D4c-Bal-16
64 Senat, Greg	T	6-6	305	1	Wagner	D6b-18	D6b-Bal-18
68 Skura, Matt	G/C	6-3	313	2	Duke	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
79 Stanley, Ronnie	T	6-6	315	3	Notre Dame	D1-16	D1-Bal-16
73 Yanda, Marshal	G/T	6-3	305	12	Iowa	D3b-07	D3b-Bal-07
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
69 Henry, Willie	DT	6-3	291	3	Michigan	D4d-16	D4d-Bal-16
97 Pierce, Michael	DT	6-0	340	3	Samford	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
42 Ricard, Patrick	DL	6-3	311	2	Maine	FA-17	FA-Bal-17
95 Sieler, Zach	DL	6-6	290	1	Ferris State	D7-18	D7-Bal-18
98 Williams, Brandon	DT	6-1	336	6	Missouri Southern	D3-13	D3-Bal-13
56 Williams, Tim	DE	6-3	252	2	Alabama	D3b-17	D3b-Bal-17
93 Wormley, Chris	DE	6-5	300	2	Michigan	D3a-17	D3a-Bal-17
LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
49 Board, Chris	LB	6-2	229	1	North Dakota St.	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
54 Bowser, Tyus	OLB	6-3	242	2	Houston	D2-17	D2-Bal-17
58 Jones, Alvin	ILB	5-10	231	1	UTEP	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
99 Judon, Matthew	OLB	6-3	261	3	Grand Valley State	D5-16	D5-Bal-16
48 Onwuasor, Patrick	ILB	6-0	227	3	Portland State	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
51 Price, Ejuan	LB	5-11	250	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	D7-LAR-17
Thomas, Matthew	LB	6-3	232	1	Florida State	FA-19	FA-Pit-18
40 Young, Kenny	LB	6-1	234	1	UCLA	D4b-18	D4b-Bal-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34 Averett, Anthony	CB	5-11	178	1	Alabama	D4a-18	D4a-Bal-18
28 Bethel, Justin	CB	6-0	200	7	Presbyterian	FA-Atl-19	D6a-Ari-12
26 Canady, Maurice	CB	6-1	193	3	Virginia	D6b-16	D6b-Bal-16
24 Carr, Brandon	CB	6-0	210	11	Grand Valley State	FA-Dal-17	D5-KC-08
36 Clark, Chuck	S	6-0	205	2	Virginia Tech	D6-17	D6-Bal-17
21 Elliott, DeShon	S	6-1	210	1	Texas	D6a-18	D6a-Bal-18
44 Humphrey, Marlon	CB	6-0	197	2	Alabama	D1-17	D1-Bal-17
33 Jackson, Bennett	CB	6-0	192	2	Notre Dame	FA-18	D6-NYG-14
38 Jean-Baptiste, Stanley	CB	6-3	216	3	Nebraska	FA-17	D2-NO-14
23 Jefferson, Tony	S	5-11	211	6	Oklahoma	FA-Ari-17	FA-Ari-13
27 Jones, Cyrus	CB	5-10	200	3	Alabama	W-NE-18	D2-NE-16
41 Levine Sr., Anthony	DB	5-11	207	7	Tennessee State	FA-12	FA-GB-10
22 Smith, Jimmy	CB	6-2	210	8	Colorado	D1-11	D1-Bal-11
29 Thomas, Earl	S	5-10	202	9	Texas	FA-Sea-19	D1b-Sea-10
25 Young, Tavon	CB	5-9	185	3	Temple	D4a-16	D4a-Bal-16
SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46 Cox, Morgan	LS	6-4	235	9	Tennessee	FA-10	FA-Bal-10
4 Koch, Sam	P	6-1	222	13	Nebraska	D6a-06	D6a-Bal-06
9 Tucker, Justin	K	6-1	183	7	Texas	FA-12	FA-Bal-12
6 Vedvik, Kaare	P/K	6-3	210	1	Marshall	FA-18	FA-Bal-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Marquise Brown (R)	Miles Boykin (R)
WR	83 Willie Snead IV	11 Seth Roberts
LT	79 Ronnie Stanley	71 Jermaine Eluemunor
LG	74 James Hurst	Ben Powers (R)
C	68 Matt Skura	77 Bradley Bozeman
RG	73 Marshal Yanda	Ben Powers (R)
RT	78 Orlando Brown Jr.	64 Greg Senat
TE	89 Mark Andrews	
TE	86 Nick Boyle	81 Hayden Hurst
QB	8 Lamar Jackson	3 Robert Griffin III
RB	21 Mark Ingram	35 Gus Edwards

DEFENSE

DE	93 Chris Wormley	95 Zach Sieler
DT	97 Michael Pierce	Gerald Willis (R)
NT	98 Brandon Williams	Daylon Mack (R)
DE	Jaylon Ferguson (R)	56 Tim Williams
WLB	40 Kenny Young	49 Chris Board
MLB	48 Patrick Onwuasor	49 Chris Board
SLB	99 Matthew Judon	54 Tyus Bowser
CB	22 Jimmy Smith	24 Brandon Carr
CB	44 Marlon Humphrey	25 Tavon Young
FS	29 Earl Thomas	21 DeShon Elliott
SS	23 Tony Jefferson	41 Anthony Levine Sr.

SPECIALISTS

K	9 Justin Tucker	KR	10 Chris Moore
P	4 Sam Koch	PR	27 Cyrus Jones

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
RB	Mark Ingram	New Orleans
WR	Seth Roberts	Oakland
FS	Earl Thomas	Seattle

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	John Brown	Buffalo
WR	Michael Crabtree	Free Agent
QB	Joe Flacco	Denver
LB	C.J. Mosley	N.Y. Jets
LB	Za'Darius Smith	Green Bay
LB	Terrell Suggs	Arizona
DE	Brent Urban	Tennessee
FS	Eric Weddle	L.A. Rams

SCOUTING THE RAVENS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP BALTIMORE "The stability the Ravens have enjoyed for two decades will be challenged in 2019. Since their early loss in the playoffs, GM Ozzie Newsome has officially retired, Joe Flacco was traded to Denver and Terrell Suggs, C.J. Mosley and Eric Weddle all departed in free agency. Those aren't just names, but people who were synonymous with the franchise. ... The new identity of this team will center around QB Lamar Jackson. ... Can GM Eric DeCosta find the right combination of offensive players to enhance [Jackson's] dual-threat ability, and can John Harbaugh and the coaching staff figure out a way to keep him healthy for an entire season? ... While Jackson sparked a 6-1 finish, he only hit 58.2 percent of his passes and was sacked 15 times in those seven starts. ... They signed Mark Ingram from the Saints, and Gus Edwards was surprisingly effective last year with 718 rushing yards. ... The wide receivers are sub-par, but they drafted Marquise Brown, who is super explosive. ... Brandon Williams is an anchor upfront on the defensive line, but Michael Pierce took a step back in 2018. ... Not only did Suggs sign with Arizona, but Za'Darius Smith left for Green Bay, so much will be expected of Matthew Judon. ... Patrick Onwuasor is their most underrated player. ... Justin Tucker and Sam Koch are pivotal in Harbaugh's formula for winning. ... It's difficult to bubble-wrap a 'running' QB, but that is the task ahead for Baltimore. ... If they can be that unique on offense, maybe a return to the playoffs can occur; otherwise, this could be an ill-fated experiment."



Ravens IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Marquise Brown	WR	5-9	170	Oklahoma
3.	Jaylon Ferguson	DE	6-5	275	Louisiana Tech
3.	Miles Boykin	WR	6-4	220	Notre Dame
4.	Justice Hill	RB	5-10	200	Oklahoma State
4.	Ben Powers	OG	6-4	310	Oklahoma
4.	Iman Marshall	CB	6-1	207	USC
5.	Daylon Mack	DT	6-1	340	Texas A&M
6.	Trace McSorley	QB	6-0	202	Penn State

The Ravens did not skimp on speed. The undersized but lightning-fast Marquise Brown can separate from cornerbacks after the catch or blow by them on deep routes. Miles Boykin is less refined, but he has the athletic profile of a prototypical outside wide receiver. Neither should have to wait long to contribute. Jaylon Ferguson, who broke Terrell Suggs' NCAA career sacks record, will be counted on to help replace the team's losses at edge rusher, including Suggs. The Ravens didn't draft an inside linebacker or center, as many expected they would, but Ben Powers is a candidate to start early at left guard. Running back Justice Hill is a potential home run hitter with experience in offensive schemes similar to the Ravens'.

Outside the Huddle

DROP ZONE Quarterback Lamar Jackson fumbled in nine straight games last season, including the Ravens' playoff loss, setting the single-season NFL record for consecutive games with a fumble, according to Pro-Football-Reference.com. With a fumble in his next start, he would tie Matt Cassel's record of 10 straight games, a mark established over the 2011 and 2012 seasons.

FAMOUS FRIENDS Jackson is not just a fan of the rapper Kodak Black. He's a friend, too. The two were born just five months apart in Pompano Beach, Fla., in 1997 and attended elementary school together. Black was in Baltimore for the Ravens' AFC North title-clinching win over the Cleveland Browns last season and even celebrated with the team in the locker room afterward.

BOOMER SOONER Ozzie Newsome was never shy about picking players from talent-rich Alabama, his alma mater, during his tenure as general manager. Over the past two drafts, however, Oklahoma has been the Ravens' go-to source for players. After taking tight end Mark Andrews and offensive tackle Orlando Brown Jr. last year, they added Sooners wide receiver Marquise Brown and guard Ben Powers in Eric DeCosta's first draft in charge. Alabama still has a numbers advantage in the locker room, but it's close.

TROPHY HUNTER Kicker Justin Tucker's first missed extra-point attempt since high school cost the Ravens in the final minute of a loss to the New Orleans Saints last season, but a part of the experience is still with him. The Ravens' equipment staff tracked down the ball Tucker miskicked, and he says

he intends to display it on a shelf next to commemorative balls he's earned. "Because that's a part of my story, and I want to be able to look at that and realize that was a learning moment," he said in April.

SMART SHOPPING After signing a three-year, \$18 million contract extension through 2021 in March, tight end Nick Boyle was asked about what in his life or career might change. Not much, he said — including where he and his wife, Kristina, shop. "We're not going to really be buying any more clothes and stuff," he said, laughing. "We're still at Nordstrom Rack and stuff. We're not going to Nordstrom."

NAME GAME Outside linebacker Matthew Judon has refused to acknowledge the online existence of star cornerback Marlon Humphrey for much of the offseason. As for Marvin Humphrey? That's another matter. "Every time @marlon_humphrey is called Marvin, it fills my heart with joy," Judon tweeted in March. After Humphrey shared the "unpopular opinion" that basketball star Zion Williamson should return to Duke for another season, Judon replied, "Popular opinion: Marvin is a idiot." He even offered \$5 to the first follower who would dub "Marvin" over an old video clip of the Ravens announcing Humphrey as their draft pick.

SAFE HAVEN At least one undrafted free agent has made the Ravens' season-opening 53-man roster for 15 straight years. Several have emerged as key players expected to contribute heavily in 2019, including Tucker, inside linebacker Patrick Onwuasor and defensive tackle Michael Pierce.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

20.1

The Ravens converted 20.1 percent of their offensive drives into field goals, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

1.62

Baltimore allowed just 1.62 points per defensive drive, second fewest in the NFL.

50.9

They Ravens forced a punt on a league-best 50.9 percent of their defensive drives.



Cincinnati BENGALS

AFC North Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

President: Mike Brown
Executive VP: Katie Blackburn
VP of Player Personnel: Paul Brown
Director of Player Personnel: Duke Tobin
Stadium: Paul Brown Stadium (65,515)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.bengals.com
Tickets: 513-621-TDTH (8383)
Training Camp: Paul Brown Stadium (Cincinnati, Ohio)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Zac Taylor
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Callahan
Defensive Coordinator: Lou Anarumo
Special Teams Coordinator: Darrin Simmons
Quarterbacks: Alex Van Pelt
Running Backs: Jemal Singleton
Wide Receivers: Bob Bicknell
Tight Ends: James Casey
Offensive Line: Jim Turner
Defensive Line: Nick Eason
Linebackers: Tem Lukabu
Secondary/Cornerbacks: Daronte Jones
Secondary/Safeties: Robert Livingston

With 36-year-old Zac Taylor in as the Bengals' new head coach, it truly is — as the team's marketing operation likes to tout — a "New Dey" in Cincinnati. But despite the new leadership, not much else changed after one of the most disappointing, frustrating and seemingly snake-bitten seasons in recent Bengals history.

Sure, Marvin Lewis, who was the league's second longest-tenured coach behind New England's Bill Belichick, is no longer at the helm, but the roster hasn't changed much. The Bengals maintained their conservative approach in free agency, using it to retain most of their own players and fill a few depth holes. The draft brought in a number of new faces and even a potential starter or two, but nothing that's going to reshape the team's identity.

Taylor brings a new, young voice to a team that's mostly played well, but not well enough, over the past decade. He's tasked with not just getting the Bengals back in contention in the AFC North after a last-place finish in 2018, but also over the hump in the playoffs, where the team hasn't won a game since Jan. 6, 1991.

The Bengals are banking on a rebound, and they'll need bounce-back performances from their familiar faces to accomplish it.

OFFENSE No one on Cincinnati's roster is feeling the pressure more entering 2019 than veteran quarterback Andy Dalton. Two years remain on Dalton's contract, and the Bengals are in the clear when it comes to the guaranteed money they owe him. There was a belief in some circles that Cincinnati might make a bold move in the first round of the NFL Draft and effectively move on from Dalton with the selection of a quarterback. Instead, the Bengals waited until the fourth, landing NC State's Ryan Finley — a quarterback Taylor really likes but one who won't be competing for the starting job this season.

Dalton is coming off an up-and-down 2018 campaign that was short-circuited at 11 games because of a season-ending thumb injury. He's at his best when the support system around him is at full strength, too. That hasn't been the case in recent seasons, but the Bengals are hoping to avoid the injury demon that's haunted them of late.

Dalton's favorite target, All-Pro wide receiver A.J. Green, has been the most affected. In turn, his absences have severely debilitated Cincinnati's passing attack. Green logged just nine games in 2018 because of a toe injury. He was putting up his typically great numbers — 46 receptions, 694 yards and six touchdowns — but it marked the second time in three seasons he played 10 or fewer games. If Green stays healthy in 2019, the Bengals, in the wake of Tyler Boyd's emergence, may have the sneakiest one-two punch at wide receiver in the division. Boyd, in his third season, was already showing major signs of improvement

while Green was healthy, and his production surged when Green went down, finishing with 1,028 yards and seven touchdowns. Boyd appears ready to provide the second option Dalton's been missing ever since the Bengals let Mohamed Sanu and Marvin Jones Jr. walk in free agency four seasons ago.

At this point in Tyler Eifert's career, any consistent production will be considered a bonus. But if he does return to full strength after suffering a gruesome ankle injury, the Bengals will have some serious options at tight end, a position Dalton loves to find in the red zone. Cincinnati re-signed the powerful C.J. Uzomah and used a second-round pick on Drew Sam-

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Seattle	4:05	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)
Sept. 15	San Francisco	1:00	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Sept. 22	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Sept. 30	at Pittsburgh (Mon.)	8:15	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Oct. 6	Arizona	1:00	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Oct. 13	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Oct. 20	Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)
Oct. 27	vs. L.A. Rams (London)	1:00	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
BYE							
Nov. 10	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Nov. 17	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Nov. 24	Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Dec. 1	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Dec. 8	at Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Dec. 15	New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Dec. 22	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Dec. 29	Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)



RB **JOE MIXON**



2018 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 9	at Indianapolis	W	34-23
Sept. 13	Baltimore	W	34-23
Sept. 23	at Carolina	L	21-31
Sept. 30	at Atlanta	W	37-36
Oct. 7	Miami	W	27-17
Oct. 14	Pittsburgh	L	21-28
Oct. 21	at Kansas City	L	10-45
Oct. 28	Tampa Bay	W	37-34
Nov. 11	New Orleans	L	14-51
Nov. 18	at Baltimore	L	21-24
Nov. 25	Cleveland	L	20-35
Dec. 2	Denver	L	10-24
Dec. 9	at L.A. Chargers	L	21-26
Dec. 16	Oakland	W	30-16
Dec. 23	at Cleveland	L	18-26
Dec. 30	at Pittsburgh	L	13-16

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING		ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andy Dalton		365	226	2,566	21	11
Jeff Driskel		176	105	1,003	6	2
RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Joe Mixon		237	1,168	4.9	8	
Giovani Bernard		56	211	3.8	3	
Jeff Driskel		25	130	5.2	2	
RECEIVING		REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tyler Boyd		76	1,028	13.5	7	
A.J. Green		46	694	15.1	6	
C.J. Uzomah		43	439	10.2	3	
Joe Mixon		43	296	6.9	1	
Giovani Bernard		35	218	6.2	0	

KICKING: Randy Bullock, 19-23 FGs, 39-41 PAT, 96 points

TACKLES: Jessie Bates, 111; Shawn Williams, 110

SACKS: Geno Atkins, 10.0; Carlos Dunlap, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Shawn Williams, 5; Jessie Bates, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	310.8	26	12
Rushing	105.1	21	13
Passing	205.6	24	11
Scoring	23.0	17	8
Third Down %	36.9	21	11
Punt Returns	10.7	7	5
Kick Returns	24.9	5	4

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	413.6	32	16
Rushing	137.8	29	14
Passing	275.9	32	16
Scoring	28.4	30	15
Interceptions	12	T18	T12
Sacks	34	28	13
Turnover Differential	+1	T15	T8

ple, a similarly physical tight end the Bengals believe can do much more in the passing game than he did at the University of Washington.

Cincinnati's offensive line was much better in 2018 after making significant moves at left tackle (Cordy Glenn) and center (Billy Price), and it will have even more options this season with the addition of rookie Jonah Williams, the 11th overall pick in the draft. The former Alabama standout will likely begin his career at right tackle, where he provides an immediate upgrade over

Bobby Hart, who was re-signed to a three-year deal before the draft.

Running behind this group will be the two-headed monster of Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard. Mixon embraced his expanded role, piling up nearly 1,200 yards in 14 games. Bernard is just as big of a threat as a pass catcher as he is a runner. The Bengals are at their best when everyone's healthy and Bernard is utilized in a change-of-pace role.

DEFENSE The face of Cincinnati's defense, Vontaze Burfict, is gone, and the frequent headaches that came along with him are, too. Burfict, even though he struggled to stay healthy and wasn't producing at the same level he was earlier in his career, leaves a big void to fill, but it's one of the few Cincinnati is looking to patch in 2019. The stability on this side of the ball makes it clear that the Bengals are chalking up some awful defensive performances to the injuries that decimated the group during the second half of 2018.

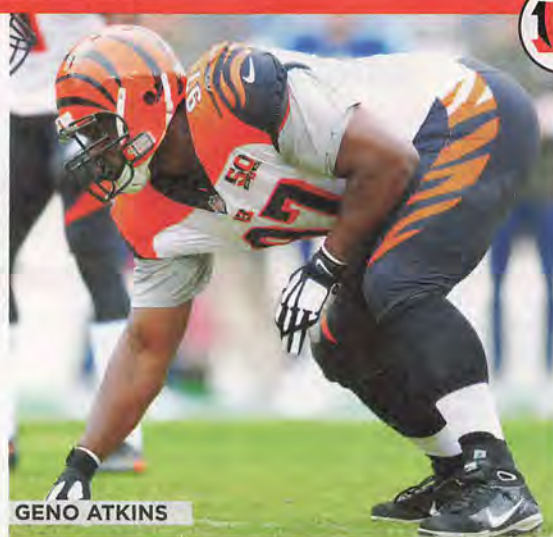
The defensive line, highlighted by Pro Bowlers Carlos Dunlap and Geno Atkins, comes back mostly intact. Both Dunlap and Atkins are coming off solid-to-impressive seasons and aren't players Cincinnati needs to worry about. The overall success of this unit will be determined by the emergence of some of the group's younger players, such as second-year defensive end Sam Hubbard, who posted six sacks in an impressive rookie campaign, and third-year end Carl Lawson, who had a similarly promising rookie season but followed it with a disappointing 2018 that ended prematurely because of a torn ACL. Fourth-round pick Renell Wren could earn valuable snaps right away if he proves capable of spelling Atkins. Healthy or not, the Bengals simply have to be better against the run, especially in the AFC North, after allowing a whopping 137.8 rushing yards per game last season.

Cincinnati wasn't very good at any of the linebacker spots even with Burfict. The Bengals still didn't see the need to overhaul the group, making just one significant move at the position with the third-round selection of Germaine Pratt. The former NC State star began his college career as a safety before putting on more than 30 pounds during his transition to linebacker. Though he's just a third-round pick, Pratt will have a clear path to obtaining starter-caliber snaps on a unit that returns veteran Preston Brown — another key player whose 2018 season was cut short by injury — Nick Vigil and Jordan Evans.

The secondary remains the strength of Cincinnati's defense, and the Bengals fortified it when they re-signed nickel cornerback Darqueze Dennard and picked up the fifth-year option on cornerback William Jackson III shortly before the draft. Veteran Dre Kirkpatrick is set to man the side opposite from Jackson, while veteran Shawn Williams and promising second-year player Jessie Bates III are poised to fill the safety spots. This is a solid unit that can hold its own when the front seven is playing at an adequate level.

SPECIALISTS Veteran placekicker Randy Bullock is back for a third season with the Bengals. He was mostly reliable but came up empty on a couple of pivotal attempts. Three of his four misses on the season came from 50-plus yards, and he missed two extra points. Wide receiver Alex Erickson provides a reliable option at both punt and kick returner, and punter Kevin Huber, who enters his 11th season in Cincinnati, is equally reliable.

FINAL ANALYSIS Bengals fans got their long-awaited change at head coach, but it's too early to gauge whether it will change the team's trajectory. It's easy to forget that the Bengals were 4-1 to start the 2018 season before injuries began to take a toll. The margin for error in the AFC North is slim — with better health and improved play at some key spots, the Bengals can contend. But if injuries hit hard again and Dalton doesn't bounce back, they could just as easily finish in last place once again.



GENO ATKINS



2019 VETERAN BENGALS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
14 Dalton, Andy	QB	6-2	220	8	TCU	D2-11	D2-Cin-11
6 Driskel, Jeff	QB	6-4	233	3	Louisiana Tech	W-SF-16	D6-SF-16
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
25 Bernard, Giovanni	RB	5-9	205	6	North Carolina	D2a-13	D2a-Cin-13
34 Flowers, Quinton	RB	5-10	211	1	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
28 Mixon, Joe	RB	6-1	220	2	Oklahoma	D2-17	D2-Cin-17
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
49 Böhlinger, Moritz	TE	6-5	243	1	Aalen	FA-18	D6-Min-16
83 Boyd, Tyler	WR	6-2	203	3	Pittsburgh	D2-16	D2-Cin-16
82 Carter, Cethan	TE	6-3	245	2	Nebraska	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
16 Core, Cody	WR	6-3	210	3	Ole Miss	D6-16	D6-Cin-16
85 Eifert, Tyler	TE	6-6	255	6	Notre Dame	D1-13	D1-Cin-13
12 Erickson, Alex	WR	6-0	195	3	Wisconsin	FA-16	FA-Cin-16
88 Franks, Jordan	TE	6-4	240	1	UCF	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
18 Green, A.J.	WR	6-4	210	8	Georgia	D1-11	D1-Cin-11
80 Malone, Josh	WR	6-3	205	2	Tennessee	D4b-17	D4b-Cin-17
15 Ross, John	WR	5-11	190	2	Washington	D1-17	D1-Cin-17
86 Schreck, Mason	TE	6-5	252	2	Buffalo	D7-17	D7-Cin-17
11 Sharp, Hunter	WR	5-11	198	1	Utah State	FA-18	FA-Phi-16
19 Tate, Auden	WR	6-5	228	1	Florida State	D7c-18	D7c-Cin-18
87 Uzomah, C.J.	TE	6-6	265	4	Auburn	D5-15	D5-Cin-15
84 Vollert, Andrew	TE	6-5	245	1	Weber State	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
17 Whitfield, Kermit	WR	5-8	192	1	Florida State	FA-17	FA-Chi-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
65 Boling, Clint	G	6-5	305	8	Georgia	D4-11	D4-Cin-11
77 Glenn, Cordy	T	6-6	345	7	Georgia	T-Buf-18	D2-Buf-12
68 Hart, Bobby	T	6-5	318	4	Florida State	FA-18	D7-NYG-15
66 Hopkins, Trey	G/C	6-3	316	3	Texas	FA-14	FA-Cin-14
61 Lundblade, Brad	C	6-3	300	1	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
67 Miller, John	G	6-3	315	4	Louisville	FA-Buf-19	D3-Buf-15
76 Perkins, Kent	T	6-5	305	1	Texas	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
53 Price, Billy	C	6-4	308	1	Ohio State	D1-18	D1-Cin-18
62 Redmond, Alex	G	6-5	310	2	UCLA	FA-16	FA-Cin-16
64 Taylor, Rod	G	6-3	320	1	Ole Miss	D7b-18	D7b-Cin-18
63 Westerman, Christian	G	6-3	305	3	Arizona State	D5-16	D5-Cin-16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
97 Atkins, Geno	DT	6-1	300	9	Georgia	D4a-10	D4a-Cin-10
99 Billings, Andrew	DT	6-1	325	3	Baylor	D4-16	D4-Cin-16
93 Brown, Andrew	DT	6-3	296	1	Virginia	D5b-18	D5b-Cin-18
96 Dunlap, Carlos	DE	6-6	280	9	Florida	D2-10	D2-Cin-10
98 Glasgow, Ryan	DT	6-3	300	2	Michigan	D4c-17	D4c-Cin-17
94 Hubbard, Sam	DE	6-5	265	1	Ohio State	D3a-18	D3a-Cin-18
58 Lawson, Carl	DE	6-2	265	2	Auburn	D4a-17	D4a-Cin-17
79 Ringo, Christian	DT	6-1	307	3	UL Lafayette	PS-Dal-18	D6-GB-15
69 Scott, Niles	DT	6-2	315	1	Frostburg State	PS-Den-18	FA-SF-18
91 Tupou, Josh	DT	6-3	345	2	Colorado	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
75 Willis, Jordan	DE	6-4	275	2	Kansas State	D3-17	D3-Cin-17
72 Wynn, Kerry	DL	6-5	263	5	Richmond	FA-NYG-19	FA-NYG-14
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
51 Bell, Brandon	LB	6-1	230	1	Penn State	FA-18	FA-Cin-17
52 Brown, Preston	LB	6-1	255	5	Louisville	FA-Buf-18	D3-Buf-14
50 Evans, Jordan	LB	6-3	242	2	Oklahoma	D6a-17	D6a-Cin-17
45 Jefferson, Malik	LB	6-2	241	1	Texas	D3b-18	D3b-Cin-18
56 Nickerson, Hardy	LB	6-0	235	2	Illinois	FA-17	FA-Cin-17
59 Vigil, Nick	LB	6-2	240	3	Utah State	D3-16	D3-Cin-16
47 Worley, Chris	LB	6-1	238	1	Ohio State	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
30 Bates III, Jessie	S	6-1	200	1	Weke Forest	D2-18	D2-Cin-18
37 Cox, Demetrius	S	6-0	200	2	Michigan State	FA-18	FA-Cin-17
21 Dennard, Darqueze	CB	5-11	200	5	Michigan State	D1-14	D1-Cin-14
42 Fejedelem, Clayton	S	6-0	205	3	Illinois	D7-16	D7-Cin-16
35 Harris, Davontae	CB	5-11	200	1	Illinois State	D5a-18	D5a-Cin-18
41 Henderson, Trayvon	S	6-0	209	1	Hawaii	FA-18	FA-Cin-18
22 Jackson III, William	CB	6-0	196	3	Houston	D1-16	D1-Cin-16
27 Kirkpatrick, Dre	CB	6-2	196	7	Alabama	D1a-12	D1a-Cin-12
29 McRae, Tony	CB	5-10	185	2	North Carolina A&T	FA-17	FA-Oak-16
23 Phillips, Darius	CB	5-10	190	1	Western Michigan	D5c-18	D5c-Cin-18
20 Russell, KeiVarae	CB	5-11	196	3	Notre Dame	W-KC-16	D3-KC-16
24 Webb, B.W.	CB	5-11	188	5	William & Mary	FA-NYG-19	D4-Dal-13
36 Williams, Shawn	S	6-0	212	6	Georgia	D3-13	D3-Cin-13
40 Wilson, Brandon	S	5-10	200	2	Houston	D6b-17	D6b-Cin-17
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
4 Bullock, Randy	K	5-9	210	7	Texas A&M	W-Pit-16	D5-Hou-12
46 Harris, Clark	LS	6-5	250	10	Rutgers	FA-09	D7-GB-07
10 Huber, Kevin	P	6-1	210	10	Cincinnati	D5-09	D5-Cin-09
3 Vizzaino, Tristan	K	6-2	202	1	Washington	FA-19	FA-Cin-19

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	18	A.J. Green	15	John Ross
WR	83	Tyler Boyd	80	Josh Malone
LT	77	Cordy Glenn	73	Jonah Williams (R)
LG	65	Clint Boling	60	Michael Jordan (R)
C	53	Billy Price	60	Michael Jordan (R)
RG	62	Alex Redmond	67	John Miller
RT	73	Jonah Williams (R)	68	Bobby Hart
TE	85	Tyler Eifert	89	Drew Sample (R)
TE	87	C.J. Uzomah	89	Drew Sample (R)
QB	14	Andy Dalton	6	Jeff Driskel
RB	28	Joe Mixon	25	Giovani Bernard

DEFENSE

DE	96	Carlos Dunlap	94	Sam Hubbard
NT	99	Andrew Billings	91	Josh Tupou
DT	97	Geno Atkins	98	Ryan Glasgow
DE	75	Jordan Willis	72	Kerry Wynn
WLB	50	Jordan Evans	45	Malik Jefferson
MLB	52	Preston Brown	56	Hardy Nickerson
SLB	59	Nick Vigil	57	Germaine Pratt (R)
CB	27	Dre Kirkpatrick	24	B.W. Webb
CB	22	William Jackson III	21	Darqueze Dennard
FS	30	Jessie Bates III	42	Clayton Fejedelem
SS	36	Shawn Williams	40	Brandon Wilson

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Randy Bullock	KR	12	Alex Erickson
P	10	Kevin Huber	PR	12	Alex Erickson

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
OG	John Miller	Buffalo
CB	B.W. Webb	N.Y. Giants
DE	Kerry Wynn	N.Y. Giants

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Vontaze Burfict	Oakland
OT	Jake Fisher	Buffalo
DE	Michael Johnson	Free Agent
TE	Tyler Kroft	Buffalo
OT	Cedric Ogbuehi	Jacksonville

SCOUTING THE BENGALS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CINCINNATI "The Bengals were catastrophic on defense and that led to the end of the Marvin Lewis era after 16 seasons. They finished 32nd on third downs and in total defense, yet the Brown family went out and hired Zac Taylor, an offensive-minded disciple of Sean McVay. ... Lou Anarumo is the DC, and like Taylor, his only play-calling duties came on an interim basis at the end of the Joe Philbin era in Miami. ... Andy Dalton is 68-50-2 as a starter but only 18-24-1 since 2016. He needs a healthy A.J. Green to have any chance of recapturing his early-career success. ... Cincy bet on Joe Mixon's talent and it showed up with 1,168 yards rushing and 43 receptions. ... Tyler Boyd was solid with 76 grabs; with Green healthy, he should find more single coverage. C.J. Uzomah took advantage of his increased playing time with a steady 43-catch season. ... Tyler Eifert gets one more chance after missing 34 of their last 48 games. ... They drafted Jonah Williams to bolster the offensive line. ... Geno Atkins was their only Pro Bowler after he notched 10 sacks. ... Finally, they moved on from Vontaze Burfict and all his issues. ... Their safety tandem was a silver lining to last year's debacle. Shawn Williams had 110 tackles and five picks, while rookie Jessie Bates had three interceptions. Bates is a future Pro Bowler because of his aggressive nature and nose for the football. ... The corner play wasn't great from Dre Kirkpatrick, William Jackson III and Darqueze Dennard, none of whom registered a single interception. ... In an evolving division, winning six games would be a successful first year for Taylor and Co."



Bengals IN THE DRAFT

A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Jonah Williams	OT	6-4	302	Alabama
2.	Drew Sample	TE	6-4	255	Washington
3.	Germaine Pratt	OLB	6-2	240	NC State
4.	Ryan Finley	QB	6-4	213	NC State
4.	Renell Wren	DT	6-5	318	Arizona State
4.	Michael Jordan	C/G	6-6	312	Ohio State
6.	Trayveon Williams	RB	5-8	206	Texas A&M
6.	Deshaun Davis	LB	5-11	234	Auburn
6.	Rodney Anderson	RB	6-0	224	Oklahoma
7.	Jordan Brown	CB	6-0	201	South Dakota State

The Bengals' two-year makeover of their offensive line somewhat culminated with the selection of Jonah Williams, the first offensive lineman off the board in the 2019 NFL Draft. He has the versatility to play anywhere but center in the NFL. The Day 2 additions of Drew Sample and Germaine Pratt provide depth at positions that have been dogged by injuries in recent years. Pratt, who began his college career as a safety, is an especially unique piece on a Cincinnati defense that was decimated by injuries. The Bengals traded up to nab Ryan Finley, who figures to be in the mix as the backup in 2019 and a potential quarterback-of-the-future contender. Trayveon Williams and Rodney Anderson likely will battle it out for one roster spot.

Outside the Huddle

MORE THAN MCVAY When it comes to new Bengals coach Zac Taylor's coaching roots, there's more than just his connection to Rams coach Sean McVay. Yes, Taylor was with the Rams for two seasons as a wide receivers coach and quarterbacks coach before landing the job with the Bengals. But his role models and major influences go all the way back to his playing days at Butler Community College in Kansas. Taylor cites former NFL head coaches Bill Callahan and Joe Philbin as two of the many coaches who helped shape him. "When you're around great teachers that really teach you the game at that level, it makes it a natural progression to go into coaching," Taylor says. "There are plenty of people out there who have had an influence on me. I'm thankful to every single one of them."

SCHEDULE QUIRK The Bengals are one of two teams — Miami the other — who were not included in the league's "Thursday Night Football" package. Taylor views it as a double-edged sword kind of situation. "You can look at it from many standpoints," he says. "If you have it early in the season and you're healthy, you can probably play well and kind of get a little breather there on the weekend. It's difficult if you draw that Thursday game in November or December and you're beat up and have key players hurt — that can be a big disadvantage."

HAPPY TO BE BACK Among the hundreds of players who signed one-year "prove it" deals around the NFL this offseason, there probably wasn't a happier one than Cincinnati's Tyler Eifert. The talented but injury-plagued tight

end has never played an entire season and has seen the field just 14 times in the last three seasons. His latest injury was a gruesome one, as he suffered a broken ankle in the Bengals' Week 4 loss at Atlanta. Eifert appeared to be back to his old self before the injury, hauling in 15 passes for 179 yards and a touchdown over three-and-a-half games. "I'm just thankful that I have another opportunity to play here and try to make the most of it and do what I can to help this team win and put points on the board," Eifert told ESPN.

JOE AND JONAH Bengals first-round rookie Jonah Williams will wear No. 73. There's a purpose behind it, as Williams grew up idolizing Browns left tackle Joe Thomas, who wore the number. The two met at the 2019 NFL Scouting Combine, where Thomas, who has been retired since March 2018, was providing commentary for NFL Network. Thomas came away impressed, tweeting "Great to meet my man @JonahGWilliams in person after a great combine for him! Time to get some rest and be prepared to be drafted VERY high!"

"THE LEAGUE WILL PAY" The Bengals may have landed the rookie running back with the biggest chip on his shoulder. Texas A&M's Trayveon Williams wasn't pleased he had to wait until the sixth round to hear his name called. While celebrating the Bengals' decision, Williams emphasized "the league will pay mark my words" in a Twitter post shortly after Cincinnati made him the 182nd pick. With veterans Joe Mixon and Giovani Bernard back, Williams will have to put those words into action just to land a spot on the Bengals' roster.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	10	🏆
2015	12	🏆
2016	6	
2017	7	
2018	6	

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

5.56

The Bengals finished second in the NFL with 5.56 points per red zone possession.

38.14

Cincinnati allowed 38.14 yards per defensive drive, the second most in the NFL.

2.56/2.61

Both Jeff Driskel and Andy Dalton finished with top-five fastest times in average time to throw, at 2.56 and 2.61 seconds, respectively.



Cleveland BROWNS

AFC North Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owners: Jimmy and Dee Haslam
General Manager: John Dorsey
Assistant GM: Eliot Wolf
VP of Player Personnel: Alonzo Highsmith
VP of Player Personnel: Ken Kovash
Stadium: FirstEnergy Stadium (67,895)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.clevelandbrowns.com
Tickets: 440-824-3434
Training Camp: Cleveland Browns Training facility (Berea, Ohio)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Freddie Kitchens
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Todd Monken
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Wilks
Special Teams Coordinator: Mike Priefer
Associate Head Coach/OL: James Campen
Quarterbacks: Ryan Lindley
Run Game Coordinator/RBs: Stump Mitchell
Wide Receivers: Adam Henry
Tight Ends: John Lilly
Defensive Line: Tosh Lupoi
Linebackers: Al Holcomb
Defensive Backs: DeWayne Walker
Pass Game Coordinator/Secondary: Joe Whitt

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Sept. 16	at N.Y. Jets (Mon.)	8:15	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Sept. 22	L.A. Rams	8:20	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Sept. 29	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Oct. 7	at San Francisco (Mon.)	8:15	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Oct. 13	Seattle	1:00	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)
BYE							
Oct. 27	at New England	4:25	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Nov. 3	at Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Nov. 10	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Nov. 14	Pittsburgh (Thu.)	8:20	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 24	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Dec. 1	at Pittsburgh	4:25	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Dec. 8	Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Dec. 15	at Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Dec. 22	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Dec. 29	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)

Everything changed for the Browns last November and December when a team that had gone 0-16 in 2017 won five of its last seven games in 2018. Baker Mayfield looks like the long-awaited answer at quarterback, and the rookie was good enough in the second half of last season that interim play-caller Freddie Kitchens was promoted to head coach in January.

The Browns really cranked the optimism train to turbo speed in March when they traded for Odell Beckham Jr., one of the NFL's best wide receivers and a player gifted enough to turn any play into a touchdown. Now, Mayfield has a true No. 1 wide receiver, and Kitchens can call runs for Nick Chubb knowing that Beckham will keep defenses from creeping close to the line of scrimmage. Uber-aggressive general manager John Dorsey signed Kareem Hunt last winter, too. Hunt is suspended for the first eight games after a violent act against a woman led to his being released by the Chiefs last December. The Browns say Hunt has turned things around, and all signs point to a 23-year-old former NFL rushing champion coming out of the bullpen for the Browns in November.

Dorsey added a pair of defensive line starters in March when he traded for Olivier Vernon and signed Sheldon Richardson, a former Defensive Rookie of the Year who's now on his fourth team in four years. The Browns had two defensive Pro Bowlers last year in end Myles Garrett and cornerback Denzel Ward, and those two join Mayfield, Beckham, Chubb and others in representing something Browns fans haven't had in a long time: real hope, as well as real expectations.

OFFENSE Mayfield was ready when called upon in September, and his poise and accuracy have Browns fans believing their decades-long wait for an answer at the game's most important position is finally over. Mayfield went on to set an NFL rookie record with 27 touchdown passes, but more important, he was everything Dorsey advertised him to be when the Browns made the former Heisman Trophy winner the No. 1 pick.

Dorsey says the Browns had a simple goal coming out of last season: to continue to surround Mayfield with the best possible talent. With Beckham on the field, the Browns can move Jarvis Landry to just about anywhere across the formation and allow him to try to exploit mismatches and get open on crossing routes. Landry is one of the game's craftiest and most productive slot receivers. He's also one of Beckham's best friends, and the reunion of these former LSU teammates in Cleveland should help the Browns build a dangerous passing offense. Speedy second-year wide receiver Antonio Callaway might play fewer snaps and get fewer targets with Beckham in the fold, but Callaway should be a more confident and more polished player this season. His top-end speed will challenge defenses, and Callaway was able to build chemistry with Mayfield last season.

Chubb went over 1,000 yards in his rookie season before losing yards on his final carry. He was the Browns' primary back for just over half the season, and his confidence grew as his experience level did. Chubb is fast and powerful, and the Browns bring back four of the five offensive linemen who opened holes for Chubb and kept Mayfield clean late last season (they traded Kevin Zeitler to the Giants for Vernon).

The Browns are taking a gamble on Hunt. He's a native of the Cleveland area, and the incident that led to his departure from the Chiefs took place in Cleveland.

Peter Brouillet



QB **BAKER MAYFIELD**



2018 RESULTS (7-8-1)

Sept. 9	Pittsburgh (ot)	T	21-21
Sept. 16	at New Orleans	L	18-21
Sept. 20	N.Y. Jets	W	21-17
Sept. 30	at Oakland (ot)	L	42-45
Oct. 7	Baltimore (ot)	W	12-9
Oct. 14	L.A. Chargers	L	14-38
Oct. 21	at Tampa Bay (ot)	L	23-26
Oct. 28	at Pittsburgh	L	18-33
Nov. 4	Kansas City	L	21-37
Nov. 11	Atlanta	W	28-16
Nov. 25	at Cincinnati	W	35-20
Dec. 2	at Houston	L	13-29
Dec. 9	Carolina	W	26-20
Dec. 15	at Denver	W	17-16
Dec. 23	Cincinnati	W	26-18
Dec. 30	at Baltimore	L	24-26

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Baker Mayfield	486	310	3,725	27	14
Tyrod Taylor	85	42	473	2	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Nick Chubb	192	996	5.2	8	
Carlos Hyde	114	382	3.4	5	
Duke Johnson	40	201	5.0	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jarvis Landry	81	976	12.0	4	
David Njoku	56	639	11.4	4	
Antonio Callaway	43	586	13.6	5	
Rashard Higgins	39	572	14.7	4	
Duke Johnson	47	429	9.1	3	

KICKING: Greg Joseph, 17-20 FGs, 25-29 PAT, 76 points

TACKLES: Jamie Collins, 104; Joe Schobert, 103

SACKS: Myles Garrett, 13.5; Larry Ogunjobi, 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Damarious Randall, 4; Denzel Ward, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	368.8	13	7
Rushing	118.3	14	7
Passing	250.4	14	6
Scoring	22.4	20	9
Third Down %	35.1	27	12
Punt Returns	9.1	12	9
Kick Returns	20.1	T27	T13

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	393.0	30	14
Rushing	135.2	28	13
Passing	257.8	25	13
Scoring	24.5	21	11
Interceptions	17	T5	T3
Sacks	37	T22	T10
Turnover Differential	+7	T8	T4

But Dorsey and Kitchens believe that Hunt has matured and is remorseful, and in the offseason they praised Hunt for his work ethic and focus on turning his life around — not just on making the most of his second football chance. Hunt might push third down back Duke Johnson out of the plans.

The Browns have other weapons. Ascending tight end David Njoku is a big, athletic target, and with Beckham drawing extra attention from defenses, players such as Callaway, Njoku and Rashard Higgins should get chances in the vertical passing game.

If Mayfield continues to progress and the Browns can stay healthy, they should be playing significant games in the back half of the season and could end up having one of the league's most explosive offenses.

DEFENSE Garrett had 13.5 sacks last season, and the expectation is that he'll beat the franchise single-season record of 14. He is an athletic marvel who's still adding to his game after injuries limited him during his rookie season, and Vernon was added to play opposite Garrett with the idea of forcing offenses to limit their double teams on the edge. The Browns plan to score points, build leads and let loose on opposing quarterbacks.

Key returning players in the back seven include linebacker Joe Schobert, safety Damarious Randall, Ward and cornerback Terrance Mitchell. The Browns have a new defensive coordinator in Steve Wilks, and in the offseason they focused on adding depth and speed to the linebacker and secondary groups. Randall is coming off his best season and is hoping to have another as he's eligible for free agency in 2020.

Schobert, a Pro Bowler in 2017, is also entering the final year of his rookie contract. The Browns drafted two linebackers, Sione Takitaki and Mack Wilson, in hopes of immediately improving the team's depth but also because the future of the position remains uncertain. Christian Kirksey missed much of last year with a hamstring injury and carries a big cap number on a contract he signed when the old regime was in charge.

Morgan Burnett will be the starting strong safety after a brief and disappointing stint with the Steelers. The Browns added cornerback Greedy Williams in the draft because they needed additional cornerback depth and believe Williams has the talent to eventually become a star. Ward had concussion issues late last season but has showed that he has the athletic traits to become one of the league's top cornerbacks.

On paper, the defense is clearly the weaker side of the ball. But it added experience and playmakers in the offseason, and the Browns don't plan on being in many 13-10 games. If the Browns can force turnovers and generate a more consistent pass rush, the defense should be capable of holding its own and helping the team reach the playoffs for the first time since 2002.

SPECIALISTS Punter Britton Colquitt was the lone bright spot on the Browns' putrid special teams units last season. Colquitt is an accurate punter who hopes he won't be as busy as he's been in previous seasons, but the Browns believe he's a valuable asset as they point towards potential bad-weather games with playoff implications. There will be a training camp kicking competition between incumbent Greg Joseph and fifth-round rookie Austin Seibert. Joseph has a big leg but was inconsistent as a rookie, and it was a little surprising to see the Browns not pursue a veteran kicker given that they've become a playoff contender. The kicking situation might not end up getting settled in August or September.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Browns are still a young team, but they're an ascending team — and potentially one of the NFL's best offensive teams. If Mayfield can continue to direct traffic and avoid turnovers, the Browns can create big plays and put up big point totals. The defensive front should be the strength of the unit and could tee off on opposing quarterbacks. The Browns have to handle the spotlight, the high expectations and a difficult early schedule, but they have enough talent to win the rugged AFC North and to be a legitimate AFC contender.



MYLES GARRETT

2019 VETERAN BROWNS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3	Gilbert, Garrett	QB	6-4	230	2	SMU	FA-19	D6-LAR-14
6	Mayfield, Baker	QB	6-1	215	1	Oklahoma	D1a-18	D1a-Cle-18
5	Stanton, Drew	QB	6-3	226	12	Michigan State	FA-Ari-18	D2a-Det-07
RUNNING BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
24	Chubb, Nick	RB	5-11	227	1	Georgia	D2b-18	D2b-Cle-18
25	Hilliard, Dontrell	RB	5-11	202	1	Tulane	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
27	Hunt, Kareem	RB	5-11	216	2	Toledo	FA-19	D3-KC-17
29	Johnson Jr., Duke	RB	5-9	210	4	Miami	D3a-15	D3a-Cle-15
42	Mays, Devante	RB	5-11	237	2	Utah State	FA-18	D7-GB-17
RECEIVERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13	Beckham Jr., Odell	WR	5-11	200	5	LSU	T-NYG-19	D1-NYG-14
86	Brown, Pharaoh	TE	6-6	258	1	Oregon	FA-18	FA-Dak-17
11	Callaway, Antonio	WR	5-11	200	1	Florida	D4-18	D4-Cle-18
82	Charles, Orson	TE	6-3	257	3	Georgia	FA-18	D4-Cin-12
87	DeValve, Seth	TE	6-3	245	3	Princeton	D4d-16	D4d-Cle-16
88	Harris, Demetrius	TE	6-7	230	5	Wisc.-Milwaukee	FA-KC-19	FA-KC-13
81	Higgins, Rashard	WR	6-1	198	3	Colorado State	D5c-16	D5c-Cle-16
	Hyman, Ishmael	WR	6-0	196	1	James Madison	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
12	Jackson, Blake	WR	5-10	200	1	Mary Hardin-Baylor	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
80	Landry, Jarvis	WR	5-11	196	5	LSU	T-Mia-18	D2-Mia-14
85	Njoku, David	TE	6-4	246	2	Miami	D1c-17	D1c-Cle-17
18	Ratley, Damion	WR	6-2	200	1	Texas A&M	D6a-18	D6a-Cle-18
15	Sheehy-Guiseppi, Damon	WR	5-11	181	1	Phoenix College	FA-19	FA-Cle-19
84	Willies, Derrick	WR	6-4	207	1	Texas Tech	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
75	Bitonio, Joel	OL	6-4	305	5	Nevada	D2-14	D2-Cle-14
63	Corbett, Austin	OL	6-4	306	1	Nevada	D2a-18	D2a-Cle-18
69	Harrison, Desmond	OL	6-6	295	1	West Georgia	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
74	Hubbard, Chris	OL	6-4	295	5	UAB	FA-Pit-18	FA-Pit-13
68	Kalis, Kyle	OL	6-4	306	1	Michigan	FA-18	FA-Was-17
72	Kush, Eric	OL	6-4	317	6	California (PA)	FA-Chi-19	D7-KC-13
70	Lamm, Kendall	OL	6-6	299	4	Appalachian State	FA-Hou-19	FA-Hou-15
78	Robinson, Greg	OL	6-5	330	5	Auburn	FA-18	D1-LAR-14
60	Seaton, Brad	OL	6-9	330	1	Villanova	FA-18	D7-Ten-17
64	Tretter, JC	OL	6-4	307	6	Cornell	FA-GB-17	D4b-GB-13
71	Witzmann, Bryan	OL	6-8	315	4	South Dakota St.	FA-Chi-19	FA-Hou-14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
93	Coley, Trevon	DL	6-1	310	2	Florida Atlantic	FA-17	FA-Bal-16
94	Davis, Carl	DL	6-5	320	4	Iowa	D3-Bal-15	D3-Bal-15
96	Ekuale, Daniel	DL	6-3	300	1	Washington State	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
95	Garrett, Myles	DL	6-4	272	2	Texas A&M	D1a-17	D1a-Cle-17
91	Jones, Lenny	DL	6-2	256	1	Nevada	FA-SF-16	FA-SF-16
99	Lawrence, Devaroe	DL	6-2	295	1	Auburn	FA-18	FA-NO-17
65	Ogunjobi, Larry	DL	6-3	305	2	Charlotte	D3-17	D3-Cle-17
91	Price, Brian	DL	6-3	322	2	UTSA	FA-18	FA-GB-16
98	Richardson, Sheldon	DT	6-3	295	6	Missouri	FA-Min-19	D1b-NYJ-13
50	Smith, Chris	DL	6-1	266	5	Arkansas	FA-Cin-18	D5-Jac-14
92	Thomas, Chad	DL	6-5	278	1	Miami	D3-18	D3-Cle-18
54	Vernon, Olivier	DL	6-2	270	7	Miami	T-NYG-19	D3a-Mia-12
97	Zettel, Anthony	DL	6-4	275	3	Penn State	W-Det-18	D6-Det-16
LINEBACKERS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
52	Armstrong, Ray-Ray	LB	6-3	220	6	Miami	FA-18	FA-LAR-13
55	Avery, Genard	LB	6-0	250	1	Memphis	D5-18	D5-Cle-18
59	Hines, D'Juan	LB	6-1	235	1	Houston	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
58	Kirksey, Christian	LB	6-2	235	5	Iowa	D3a-14	D3a-Cle-14
53	Schobert, Joe	LB	6-1	245	3	Wisconsin	D4a-16	D4a-Cle-16
57	Taylor, Adarius	LB	6-1	230	4	Florida Atlantic	FA-TB-19	FA-Car-14
56	Woodson-Luster, Xavier	LB	6-1	220	2	Arkansas State	FA-18	FA-Dak-17
DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
42	Burnett, Morgan	DB	6-1	209	9	Georgia Tech	FA-Pit-19	D3-GB-10
31	Burris, Justin	DB	6-0	212	3	NC State	FA-18	D4-NYJ-16
38	Carrie, T.J.	DB	6-0	204	5	Ohio	FA-Dak-18	D7a-Oak-14
33	Gaines, Phillip	DB	6-0	193	5	Rice	W-Buf-18	D3-KC-14
34	Jackson, Robert	DB	6-2	207	1	UNLV	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
36	Lampkin, Ashton	DB	6-0	189	2	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-KC-17
39	Mitchell, Terrance	DB	5-11	191	5	Oregon	FA-KC-18	D7-Dal-14
22	Murray, Eric	DB	5-11	199	3	Minnesota	T-KC-19	D4b-KC-16
41	Pipkins, Lenzy	DB	6-0	196	2	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-GB-17
23	Randall, Damarious	DB	5-11	196	4	Arizona State	T-GB-18	D1-GB-15
40	Sankoh, Tigie	DB	5-11	214	1	Greenwich	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
27	Thomas, Tavierre	DB	5-10	205	1	Ferris State	W-Ari-18	FA-Ari-18
21	Ward, Denzel	DB	5-11	190	1	Ohio State	D1b-18	D1b-Cle-18
35	Whitehead, Jermaine	DB	5-11	195	3	Auburn	W-GB-18	FA-SF-15
SPECIALISTS		POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Colquitt, Britton	P	6-3	210	9	Tennessee	FA-16	FA-Den-09
47	Hughlett, Charley	LS	6-4	248	4	UCF	FA-14	FA-Dal-12
17	Joseph, Greg	K	6-0	208	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-18	FA-Mia-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	13	Odell Beckham Jr.	81	Rashard Higgins
WR	80	Jarvis Landry	18	Damion Ratley
WR	11	Antonio Callaway	84	Derrick Willies
LT	78	Greg Robinson	69	Desmond Harrison
LG	75	Joel Bitonio	72	Eric Kush
C	64	JC Tretter	68	Kyle Kalis
RG	63	Austin Corbett	71	Bryan Witzmann
RT	74	Chris Hubbard	70	Kendall Lamm
TE	85	David Njoku	88	Demetrius Harris
QB	6	Baker Mayfield	5	Drew Stanton
RB	24	Nick Chubb	29	Duke Johnson

DEFENSE

DE	95	Myles Garrett	50	Chris Smith
DT	98	Sheldon Richardson	94	Carl Davis
DT	65	Larry Ogunjobi	93	Trevon Coley
DE	54	Olivier Vernon	92	Chad Thomas
OLB	58	Christian Kirksey	44	Sione Takitaki (R)
MLB	53	Joe Schobert	51	Mack Wilson (R)
OLB	55	Genard Avery	57	Adarius Taylor
CB	21	Denzel Ward	38	T.J. Carrie
CB	39	Terrance Mitchell	26	Greedy Williams (R)
FS	23	Damarious Randall	33	Sheldrick Redwine (R)
SS	42	Morgan Burnett	22	Eric Murray

SPECIALISTS

K	17	Greg Joseph	KR	25	Dontrell Hilliard
P	4	Britton Colquitt	PR	11	Antonio Callaway

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
WR	Odell Beckham Jr.	N.Y. Giants
S	Morgan Burnett	Pittsburgh
TE	Demetrius Harris	Kansas City
RB	Kareem Hunt	Kansas City
OL	Eric Kush	Chicago
OL	Kendall Lamm	Houston
S	Eric Murray	Kansas City
DT	Sheldon Richardson	Minnesota
LB	Adarius Taylor	Tampa Bay
DE	Olivier Vernon	N.Y. Giants

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
S	Brian Boddy-Calhoun	Houston
LB	Jamie Collins	Free Agent
TE	Darren Fells	Houston
CB	E.J. Gaines	Buffalo
OL	Derrick Kindred	Indianapolis
DE	Emmanuel Ogbah	Kansas City
S	Jabrill Peppers	N.Y. Giants
WR	Breshad Perriman	Tampa Bay
OG	Kevin Zeitler	N.Y. Giants

SCOUTING THE BROWNS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CLEVELAND "Baker Mania is at full throttle after he tossed 27 touchdowns, and his performance helped Freddie Kitchens get the head coaching job. ... GM John Dorsey slow-played his union with Hue Jackson and now has a coach that will stay in his lane. How much of the head coaching duties will take away from [Kitchens'] play-calling ability? ... Mayfield flashed spectacular play but must cut down on the 14 picks in his first 13 starts. ... Dorsey only cares about production and not much about character when you consider that he has drafted Antonio Callaway, signed Kareem Hunt and traded for Odell Beckham Jr. ... Nick Chubb will be the focus of their run game after churning out 996 yards and eight touchdowns as a rookie. ... Jarvis Landry is exactly what you want in a slot receiver; he is tough, can separate and has excellent hands. ... David Njoku approached his potential with 56 catches and four touchdowns as a second-year pro; his vertical speed is a problem for defenses to match. ... Greg Robinson will man the left tackle post, but he is the weakest link in their OL. ... Can we add Sheldon Richardson to the production-over-character list? He will be expected to help a rush defense that ranked 28th in the NFL. ... Defensive tackle Larry Ogunjobi is underrated, as is Joe Schobert, who quietly made the Pro Bowl in 2017. ... Denzel Ward was terrific as a rookie corner and is the real deal. A laughing stock no more. Nine wins might get them to the playoffs, and that's clearly within reach."



Browns IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Greedy Williams	CB	6-2	185	LSU
3.	Sione Takitaki	LB	6-1	238	BYU
4.	Sheldrick Redwine	S	6-0	196	Miami (Fla.)
5.	Mack Wilson	LB	6-1	240	Alabama
5.	Austin Seibert	K	5-9	213	Oklahoma
6.	Drew Forbes	OL	6-5	305	SE Missouri State
7.	Donnie Lewis	CB	6-0	190	Tulane

The Browns gave up their first-round pick in the trade for Odell Beckham Jr. They considered trading back in the second round but ended up moving up three spots for Greedy Williams, a gifted athlete thought by some to be a first-round talent. The Browns probably didn't draft any immediate starters but feel they added much-needed depth and speed on defense. Their special teams units were putrid last year, too, which explains the drafting of two developmental linebackers and a kicker. With little settled at linebacker past 2019, Mack Wilson and Sione Takitaki will have chances to play their way into the team's long-term plans.

B-

Outside the Huddle

DOUBLE SWAP The trade for Odell Beckham Jr. had been in the works, at least via conversations, for nearly a year. John Dorsey and Giants GM Dave Gettleman have a relationship that dates back nearly 25 years, and even though the Giants signed Beckham last summer to an extension worth \$65 million guaranteed, Dorsey called back in March and asked Gettleman if he was willing to make a trade. Dorsey knew the number. Four days earlier, the Browns and Giants had agreed to an Olivier Vernon-Kevin Zeitler trade that included a swap of mid-round draft picks. But when the Beckham deal was made, the trades were formalized as one deal. The Browns got Beckham and Vernon for Zeitler, Peppers, a 2019 first-round pick and a 2019 third-round pick the Browns had acquired a year earlier by trading Danny Shelton to the Patriots.

TURNING IT OVER Dorsey took over as Browns GM in December 2017. The 2018 opening-day roster had 31 players who hadn't been with the Browns in the prior season, and Dorsey was aggressive again this offseason in adding Vernon and Sheldon Richardson to the defensive front and adding Beckham, Kareem Hunt and tight end Demetrius Harris to the offense.

THE NEW GUY Freddie Kitchens was an assistant in Arizona for 11 years before joining the Browns as assistant head coach and running backs coach in 2018. He'd never called plays before the midseason firings of Hue Jackson and Todd Haley led to Kitchens — a former starting quarterback at Alabama — being named interim offensive

coordinator. After Baker Mayfield and the offense took off last November and December, Kitchens was the final candidate the Browns interviewed for their head coaching job. Now, he's still the play caller and also the ninth full-time head coach the Browns have had since they returned to the NFL in 1999.

BEST FRIENDS The relationship between Beckham and Jarvis Landry dates back to a high school 7-on-7 passing tournament. Landry was already committed to LSU then, and he helped recruit Beckham away from Miami and ultimately to LSU. The two became friends and co-stars at LSU before both were drafted in 2014, and Landry spent much of his first season in Cleveland talking about getting Beckham to join him with the Browns. When the trade happened in March, Beckham first called his mother and then called Landry. "We spoke this into existence," Landry said in April, when the Browns introduced Beckham and also had Landry and Mayfield at the podium.

ROCK SOLID Offensive tackle Greg Robinson was the No. 2 pick by the St. Louis Rams in the 2014 NFL Draft coming out of Auburn. Considered a flop, he was cut three seasons later, then had a short stint with the Lions. The Browns considered Robinson a cheap flier when they signed him last June, but he became a nice insurance policy and a key part of a line that kept Mayfield clean in the second half of last season. After starting the final eight games at left tackle, Robinson signed a new one-year deal with the Browns in February.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

2:24

The Browns averaged just 2:24 of possession per offensive drive, the second lowest in the NFL.

7.3

Cleveland recovered fumbles on 7.3 percent of its defensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

9.1

The Browns allowed a league-high 9.1 targets per game to opposing tight ends.



Pittsburgh STEELERS

AFC North Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

President: Arthur J. Rooney II
VP: Arthur J. Rooney Jr.
VP and General Manager: Kevin Colbert
Player Personnel Coordinator: Dan Rooney Jr.
Stadium: Heinz Field (68,400)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.steelers.com
Tickets: 412-323-1200
Training Camp: Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, Pa.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Tomlin
Record With Team: 125-66-1
Career Record: 125-66-1
Offensive Coordinator/QBs: Randy Fichtner
Defensive Coordinator: Keith Butler
Assistant Head Coach: John Mitchell
Special Teams Coordinator: Danny Smith
Running Backs: Eddie Faulkner
Wide Receivers: Darryl Drake
Tight Ends: James Daniel
Offensive Line: Shaun Sarrett
Defensive Line: Karl Dunbar
Inside Linebackers: Jerry Olsavsky
Defensive Backs: Tom Bradley
Senior Defensive Assistant/Secondary: Teryl Austin

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	at New England	8:20	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
Sept. 15	Seattle	1:00	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)	
Sept. 22	at San Francisco	4:25	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)	
Sept. 30	Cincinnati (Mon.)	8:15	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Oct. 6	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Oct. 13	at L.A. Chargers	8:20	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)	
BYE								
Oct. 28	Miami (Mon.)	8:15	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)	
Nov. 3	Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Nov. 10	L.A. Rams	4:25	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)	
Nov. 14	at Cleveland (Thu.)	8:20	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Nov. 24	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Dec. 1	Cleveland	4:25	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Dec. 8	at Arizona	4:25	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)	
Dec. 15	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	
Dec. 22	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)	
Dec. 29	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	

No one in the NFL is testing the theory of “addition by subtraction” more than the Pittsburgh Steelers. The Steelers fell well short of their goals in 2018, missing the playoffs for the first time in five years. They were without star running back Le’Veon Bell for the entirety of the season, but it mattered little. Other flaws and distractions brought down the Steelers.

Bell, who signed with the Jets in March, is officially gone, and so is receiver Antonio Brown, who forced his way out of Pittsburgh and landed with Oakland via trade. Just a few years removed from posing the biggest offensive triple threat in the NFL, the triple B’s are down to a single B, veteran quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Still, the expectations haven’t changed in Pittsburgh. In fact, coach Mike Tomlin called it a “cleansing” for a locker room that is still chock-full of talented veterans at most positions.

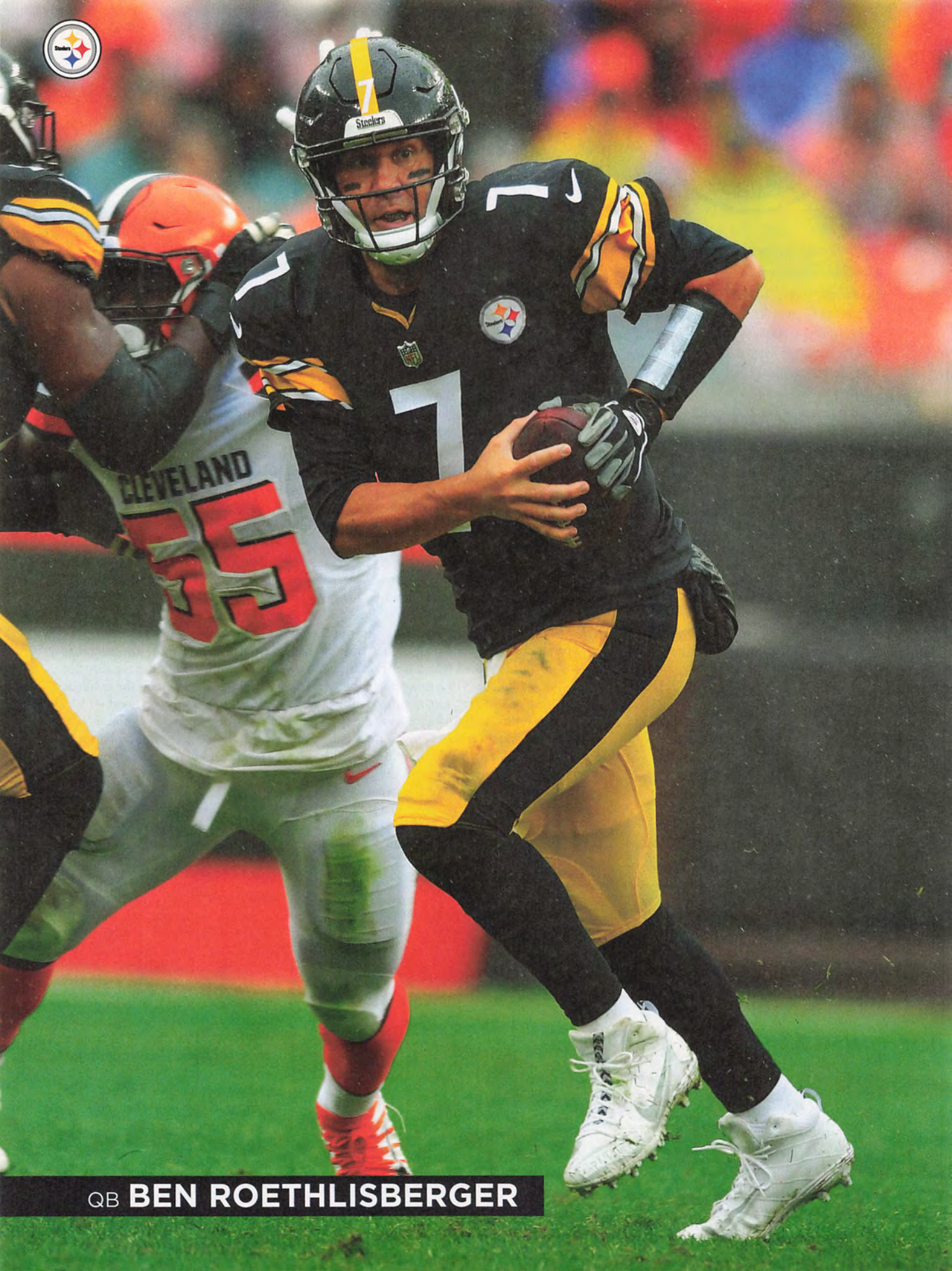
OFFENSE This team will go as far as Roethlisberger takes it. The Steelers made that loud and clear shortly before the NFL Draft, when they inked the 37-year-old veteran to a hefty extension that will keep him in Pittsburgh through 2021. He got the money, security and respect Bell and Brown thought they deserved. Now, he’ll look to prove that the Steelers can be just as good, if not better, without them. For his part, Roethlisberger is coming off his first season without missing a game since 2014. He avoided the nagging injuries that plagued him throughout previous seasons, and he finished with career bests in passing yards (5,129) and touchdowns (34). Roethlisberger appeared refreshed under new offensive coordinator Randy Fichtner, his longtime quarterbacks coach who took over for the combative Todd Haley. How Roethlisberger handles the loss of Brown, his No. 1 target since 2011, will determine just how potent Pittsburgh’s offense can be.

Fortunately, there’s a No. 1-caliber wide receiver waiting in the wings. The time has arrived for third-year wide receiver JuJu Smith-Schuster, whose magnetic personality has made him one of the NFL’s most popular young players. His performance on the field has something to do with it, too, as he’s coming off a second season that was so good — 111 receptions, 1,426 yards and seven touchdowns — that he earned team MVP honors in a vote by his teammates. Certainly, a good chunk of his success can be credited to Brown’s presence, but there’s a belief that Smith-Schuster is talented enough to thrive even while drawing the most attention from the opposing defense.

There won’t be a No. 2 of the same caliber as Smith provided, but there are options. Donte Moncrief, who is coming off a solid rebound season in Jacksonville, is the top veteran option, while the Steelers are hoping to strike gold with either second-year pass catcher James Washington or rookie Diontae Johnson, a third-rounder from Toledo whom the

Steelers selected with the pick they acquired from the Raiders in the Brown trade. With the departure of Jesse James, veteran Vance McDonald, who is coming off a career year, stands alone as the top receiving option at tight end.

James Conner helped Steelers fans forget about Bell from the moment he made his starting debut Week 1 of the 2018 season. Injuries limited Conner down the stretch, keeping him out of three pivotal games, but he looks the part of Pittsburgh’s bell cow for years to come. To avoid the kind of drop-off that occurred when Conner went down last year, Pittsburgh added some much-needed depth with the fourth-round selection of Kentucky’s Benny Snell



QB **BEN ROETHLISBERGER**



2018 RESULTS (9-6-1)

Sept. 9	at Cleveland (ot)	T	21-21
Sept. 16	Kansas City	L	37-42
Sept. 24	at Tampa Bay	W	30-27
Sept. 30	Baltimore	L	14-26
Oct. 7	Atlanta	W	41-17
Oct. 14	at Cincinnati	W	28-21
Oct. 28	Cleveland	W	33-18
Nov. 4	at Baltimore	W	23-16
Nov. 8	Carolina	W	52-21
Nov. 18	at Jacksonville	W	20-16
Nov. 25	at Denver	L	17-24
Dec. 2	L.A. Chargers	L	30-33
Dec. 9	at Oakland	L	21-24
Dec. 16	New England	W	17-10
Dec. 23	at New Orleans	L	28-31
Dec. 30	Cincinnati	W	16-13

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Ben Roethlisberger	675	452	5,129	34	16
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
James Conner	215	973	4.5	12	
Jaylen Samuels	56	256	4.6	0	
Ben Roethlisberger	31	98	3.2	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
JuJu Smith-Schuster	111	1,426	12.8	7	
Antonio Brown	104	1,297	12.5	15	
Vance McDonald	50	610	12.2	4	
James Conner	55	497	9.0	1	
Jesse James	30	423	14.1	2	
Ryan Switzer	36	253	7.0	1	

KICKING: Chris Boswell, 13-20 FGs, 43-48 PAT, 82 points

TACKLES: Sean Davis, 80; Terrell Edmunds, 78

SACKS: T.J. Watt, 13.0; Cameron Hayward, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Joe Haden, 2; six tied with 1

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	403.3	4	2
Rushing	90.3	31	16
Passing	313.0	2	1
Scoring	26.8	T6	T4
Third Down %	44.4	8	4
Punt Returns	8.1	17	13
Kick Returns	19.3	31	16

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	327.2	6	4
Rushing	96.1	6	3
Passing	231.1	10	6
Scoring	22.5	T16	9
Interceptions	8	28	16
Sacks	52	T1	T1
Turnover Differential	-11	28	15

Jr. While Snell is more of a thumper, second-year back Jaylen Samuels gives the Steelers another pass-catching option out of the backfield to complement Conner.

Pittsburgh's offensive line has been one of the most stable groups in the AFC North over the past few years, and it's poised to return four of its veteran starters in 2019. The lone departure is right tackle Marcus Gilbert, who was traded to the Cardinals.

A three-man competition to replace him featuring Chukwuma Okorafor, Matt Feiler and Jerald Hawkins is expected to unfold in training camp.

The bigger loss, though, will be felt behind the scenes after the departure of longtime offensive line coach Mike Munchak, who now holds the same position with the Denver Broncos. Pittsburgh maintained a bit of continuity by promoting Shaun Sarrett to the position, but replacing Munchak is easier said than done.

DEFENSE Pittsburgh took an uncharacteristic route toward filling the biggest hole in its defense, but it was necessary. The Steelers parted with some vital draft capital, a first- and second-rounder in 2019 and a third-rounder in 2020, to move up 10 spots in the first round to nab Michigan linebacker Devin Bush. For the past two years, the Steelers struggled to replace inside linebacker Ryan Shazier, arguably the best player on the entire unit, and the overall defense struggled as a result. It remains to be seen if Bush can play the position as effectively and violently as Shazier, a two-time Pro Bowler, but he certainly has the talent and potential. Bush comes from a football family — his father played defensive back in the NFL from 1995-2002 — and has the instincts and attitude Pittsburgh loves in the middle of its defense.

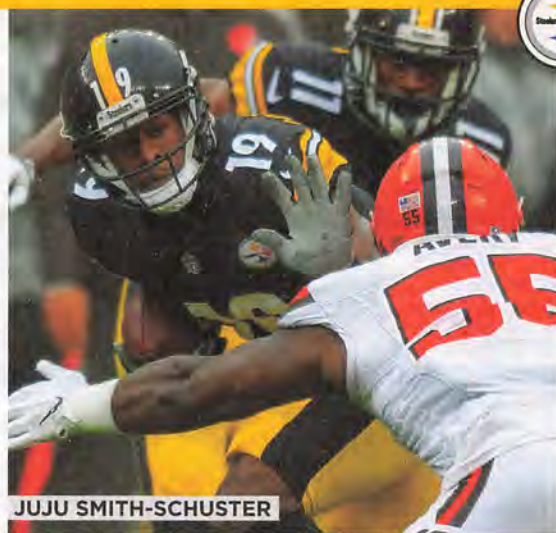
In front of Bush, the Steelers are set to bring back all of their significant contributors, including Cameron Heyward, who is coming off a second consecutive Pro Bowl appearance. The starting trio of Heyward, Stephon Tuitt and Javon Hargrave combined for 20 sacks in 2018 — a big, impressive number for a group that primarily operates out of a 3-4 base.

The addition of Bush and free agent signing of Mark Barron give the Steelers a few more options than they had last season at linebacker. Vince Williams played well on the inside last season, finishing third on the team with 76 tackles, and he should only benefit from the increase in talent around him. The pass rush off the edge will come from the same place it did last season, as T.J. Watt looks to build off a breakout 2018 campaign in which he registered 13 sacks. On the other side is Bud Dupree, who hasn't quite lived up to the expectations that came with being a first-round pick but has proven to be a capable player after battling through injuries during the first two years of his career. It will be a contract year for Dupree, as the Steelers opted to exercise the fifth-year option on his rookie deal.

The Steelers made it fairly clear how they'll look at cornerback this season when they signed Kansas City's Steven Nelson to a three-year, \$25 million deal at the start of free agency. He'll line up on the opposite side of Joe Haden, who continues to flourish in Pittsburgh after being cast aside by the Browns before the start of the 2017 season. In the slot is Mike Hilton, one of the league's best nickel backs. Adding Michigan State's Justin Layne in the third round sets up a competition for a couple of the final spots on the 53-man roster. Nothing will be handed to former first-round pick Artie Burns, who struggled mightily last season. At safety, the Steelers are hoping for Terrell Edmunds, their first-round pick from 2018, to make a jump in the wake of veteran Morgan Burnett's departure.

SPECIALISTS Chris Boswell earned a big contract for his Pro Bowl-worthy 2017 season, but he nosedived in 2018, missing seven field goal attempts and five extra points. He'll have to earn his job in 2019, as the Steelers are hoping he can rekindle the automatic feeling he once provided. Ryan Switzer is the top return specialist.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Steelers have rebounded from disappointing seasons before, and they've been able to recover from the loss of talented players at various spots all over the field. They can certainly do the same in 2019, but it will require another age-defying season from Roethlisberger and an immediate impact from Bush on a defense that might be tasked with carrying Pittsburgh while it adapts to life with just one of the Killer B's.



JUJU SMITH-SCHUSTER



2019 VETERAN STEELERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Dobbs, Joshua	QB	6-3	216	1	Tennessee	D4-17	D4-Pit-17
6	Roback, Brogan	QB	6-3	215	1	Eastern Michigan	FA-19	FA-Cle-18
7	Roethlisberger, Ben	QB	6-5	240	15	Miami (OH)	D1-04	D1-Pit-04
2	Rudolph, Mason	QB	6-5	235	1	Oklahoma State	D3a-18	D3a-Pit-18
RUNNING BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
30	Conner, James	RB	6-1	233	2	Pittsburgh	D3b-17	D3b-Pit-17
33	Edmunds, Trey	RB	6-2	223	2	Maryland	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
45	Nix, Roosevelt	FB	5-11	248	4	Kent State	FA-15	FA-Atl-14
38	Samuels, Jaylen	RB	6-0	225	1	NC State	D5b-18	D5b-Pit-18
40	Webb, Ralph	RB	5-10	200	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-NE-18
39	Williams, Malik	RB	6-3	220	1	Louisville	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
RECEIVERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
15	Griffey, Trey	WR	6-3	192	1	Arizona	FA-18	FA-Ind-17
85	Grimble, Xavier	TE/FB	6-4	261	3	USC	FA-15	FA-NYG-14
14	Jones, Tevin	WR	6-2	225	1	Memphis	FA-18	FA-Hou-16
89	McDonald, Vance	TE	6-4	267	6	Rice	T-SF-17	D2-SF-13
11	Moncrief, Donte	WR	6-2	216	5	Ole Miss	FA-Jac-19	D3-Ind-14
87	Rader, Kevin	TE	6-4	250	1	Youngstown State	FA-19	FA-GB-18
17	Rogers, Eli	WR	5-10	187	3	Louisville	FA-18	FA-Pit-15
49	Scotland-Williamson, C.	TE	6-9	274	1	Loughborough	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
19	Smith-Schuster, JuJu	WR	6-1	215	2	USC	D2-17	D2-Pit-17
10	Switzer, Ryan	WR	5-8	185	2	North Carolina	T-Oak-18	D4-Dal-17
13	Washington, James	WR	5-11	213	1	Oklahoma State	D2-18	D2-Pit-18
80	White, Ka'Raun	WR	6-1	206	1	West Virginia	FA-19	FA-Sea-18
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
72	Banner, Zach	T	6-8	360	2	USC	FA-18	D4-Ind-17
66	DeCastro, David	G	6-5	316	7	Stanford	D1-12	D1-Pit-12
71	Feiler, Matt	T	6-6	330	2	Bloomsburg (PA)	FA-16	FA-Hou-14
67	Finney, B.J.	C/G	6-4	318	3	Kansas State	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
73	Foster, Ramon	G	6-5	328	10	Tennessee	FA-09	FA-Pit-09
60	Hassenauer, J.C.	C/G	6-2	295	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
65	Hawkins, Jerald	T	6-6	305	2	LSU	D4-16	D4-Pit-16
62	Morris, Patrick	C	6-3	300	1	TCU	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
76	Okorafor, Chukwuma	OL	6-6	320	1	Western Michigan	D3b-18	D3b-Pit-18
53	Pouncey, Maurkice	C	6-4	304	9	Florida	D1-10	D1-Pit-10
64	Prince, R.J.	OL	6-6	311	1	North Carolina	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
78	Villanueva, Alejandro	T	6-9	320	4	Army	FA-14	FA-Phi-14
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
94	Alualu, Tyson	DE	6-3	304	9	California	FA-Jac-17	D1-Jac-10
64	Craig, Winston	DT	6-4	290	1	Richmond	FA-19	FA-Phi-17
79	Hargrave, Javon	NT	6-2	305	3	South Carolina St.	D3-16	D3-Pit-16
97	Heyward, Cameron	DT	6-5	295	8	Ohio State	D1-11	D1-Pit-11
95	Hooks, Lavon	DE	6-3	312	1	Ole Miss	FA-17	FA-GB-15
93	McCullers, Daniel	DT	6-7	352	5	Tennessee	D6b-14	D6b-Pit-14
74	Sayles, Casey	DE	6-2	288	1	Ohio	FA-19	FA-LAR-17
61	Sheehy, Conor	DE	6-4	295	1	Wisconsin	FA-19	FA-GB-18
91	Tuitt, Stephon	DE	6-6	303	5	Notre Dame	D2-14	D2-Pit-14
LINEBACKERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99	Adams, Keion	LB	6-2	245	1	Western Michigan	D7-17	D7-Pit-17
92	Adeniyi, Oluosunkanmi	LB	6-1	248	1	Toledo	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
	Barron, Mark	LB	6-2	230	7	Alabama	FA-LAR-19	D1-TB-12
56	Chickillo, Anthony	LB	6-3	255	4	Miami	D6b-15	D6b-Pit-15
48	Dupree, Bud	LB	6-4	269	4	Kentucky	D1-15	D1-Pit-15
40	Jones, JT	LB	6-3	245	1	Miami (OH)	FA-19	FA-Atl-17
44	Matakevich, Tyler	LB	6-1	235	3	Temple	D7b-16	D7b-Pit-16
46	Scales, Tegray	LB	6-0	227	1	Indiana	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
50	Shazier, Ryan	LB	6-1	230	5	Ohio State	D1-14	D1-Pit-14
49	Spillane, Robert	LB	6-1	229	1	Western Michigan	FA-19	FA-Ten-18
90	Watt, T.J.	LB	6-4	252	2	Wisconsin	D1-17	D1-Pit-17
98	Williams, Vince	LB	6-1	233	6	Florida State	D6b-13	D6b-Pit-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
29	Allen, Brian	CB	6-3	215	2	Utah	D5-17	D5-Pit-17
27	Allen, Marcus	S	6-2	215	1	Penn State	D5a-18	D5a-Pit-18
25	Burns, Artie	CB	6-0	197	3	Miami	D1-16	D1-Pit-16
37	Dangerfield, Jordan	S	5-11	199	2	Towson	FA-15	FA-Buf-13
21	Davis, Sean	S	6-1	202	3	Maryland	D2-16	D2-Pit-16
34	Edmunds, Terrell	S	6-1	217	1	Virginia Tech	D1-18	D1-Pit-18
23	Haden, Joe	CB	5-11	195	9	Florida	FA-17	D1-Cle-10
28	Hilton, Mike	CB	5-9	184	2	Ole Miss	FA-16	FA-Jac-16
38	Kelly, Kameron	CB	6-2	205	1	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Dal-18
22	Nelson, Steven	CB	5-11	194	4	Oregon State	FA-KC-19	D3b-KC-15
20	Sutton, Cameron	CB	5-11	188	2	Tennessee	D3a-17	D3a-Pit-17
33	Tocho, Jack	CB	6-0	202	1	NC State	FA-19	D7-Min-17
35	Waters, Herb	CB	6-2	194	1	Miami	FA-18	FA-Pit-18
SPECIALISTS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Berry, Jordan	P	6-5	195	4	Eastern Kentucky	FA-15	FA-Pit-15
9	Boswell, Chris	K	6-2	185	4	Rice	FA-15	FA-Hou-14
57	Canaday, Kameron	LS	6-4	245	3	Portland State	FA-17	FA-Ari-16
3	McCrane, Matt	K	5-10	165	1	Kansas State	FA-18	FA-Ari-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	19	JuJu Smith-Schuster	13	James Washington
WR	11	Donte Moncrief		Diontae Johnson (R)
LT	78	Alejandro Villanueva	76	Chukwuma Okorafor
LG	73	Ramon Foster	67	B.J. Finney
C	53	Maurkice Pouncey	67	B.J. Finney
RG	66	David DeCastro	67	B.J. Finney
RT	71	Matt Feiler	65	Jerald Hawkins
TE	89	Vance McDonald	85	Xavier Grimble
QB	7	Ben Roethlisberger	2	Mason Rudolph
RB	30	James Conner		Benny Snell Jr. (R)
FB	45	Roosevelt Nix	85	Xavier Grimble

DEFENSE

DT	97	Cameron Heyward		Isaiah Buggs (R)
NT	79	Javon Hargrave	93	Dan McCullers
DE	91	Stephon Tuitt	94	Tyson Alualu
OLB	90	T.J. Watt	56	Anthony Chickillo
ILB	55	Devin Bush (R)		Mark Barron
ILB	98	Vince Williams	44	Tyler Matakevich
OLB	48	Bud Dupree	56	Anthony Chickillo
CB	23	Joe Haden	28	Mike Hilton
CB	22	Steven Nelson		Justin Layne (R)
FS	21	Sean Davis	27	Marcus Allen
SS	34	Terrell Edmunds	37	Jordan Dangerfield

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Chris Boswell	KR	10	Ryan Switzer
P	4	Jordan Berry	PR	10	Ryan Switzer

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
ILB	Mark Barron	L.A. Rams
WR	Donte Moncrief	Jacksonville
CB	Steven Nelson	Kansas City

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
RB	Le'Veon Bell	N.Y. Jets
WR	Antonio Brown	Oakland
S	Morgan Burnett	Cleveland
DT	Marcus Gilbert	Arizona
TE	Jesse James	Detroit

SCOUTING THE STEELERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PITTSBURGH "Culture and chemistry are still relevant in pro sports, and the Steelers need a dose of both in 2019. Gone are Antonio Brown and Le'Veon Bell, two lightning-rod talents that simply bucked the system and forged their way out of the Steel City. Ben Roethlisberger's leadership has been called into question, and it will be interesting to see how he responds once training camp begins. He is still a bear of a QB, but without a running game (31st in the league) and his 16 interceptions, this roster is not good enough to just rely on his right arm and ad-lib ability to win. ... The James Conner story is remarkable, and he will only get better after rushing for 973 yards while catching 55 passes. They love Jaylen Samuels, who had 26 receptions as their third-down back. ... JuJu Smith-Schuster will see more defenses geared to stop him after a 111-catch season, but much of that will depend upon the emergence of James Washington, who had only 16 grabs as a rookie. ... Somehow, Pittsburgh tied for first in the league with 52 sacks but finished 28th in interceptions with only eight on the season. That says everything you need to know about their secondary. The real issue is cornerback play, where Joe Haden is a shadow of his former self and Artie Burns has been below average. ... T.J. Watt has a full array of pass-rush moves (13 sacks), and their front is solid with Cameron Heyward, Javon Hargrave and Stephon Tuitt. ... They moved up to No. 10 for Devin Bush, who will make an instant impact at linebacker. ... Playoffs? Likely. Super Bowl? Not a chance."



Steelers

IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Devin Bush	ILB	5-11	234	Michigan
3.	Diontae Johnson	WR	5-10	183	Toledo
3.	Justin Layne	CB	6-2	192	Michigan State
4.	Benny Snell Jr.	RB	5-10	224	Kentucky
5.	Zach Gentry	TE	6-8	265	Michigan
6.	Sutton Smith	OLB	6-0	233	Northern Illinois
6.	Isaiah Buggs	DE	6-3	295	Alabama
6.	Ulysees Gilbert III	ILB	6-0	230	Akron
7.	Derwin Gray	OT	6-4	320	Maryland

In an uncharacteristic move, the Steelers traded up to get the player they coveted. The selection of Devin Bush, who was the heart and soul of Michigan's stout defense, marked the first time since 2000 the Steelers picked in the top 10. He's set to fill the massive void left by Ryan Shazier. The price to move up 10 spots cost Pittsburgh its second-rounder and a future third, but the Steelers found two players on Day 2 in Diontae Johnson and Justin Layne who fill needs, will compete for starting jobs and, at the least, will settle into rotational roles. Benny Snell Jr., who rushed for nearly 1,500 yards and 16 touchdowns in his final season at Kentucky, gives the Steelers something they didn't have in 2018: a reliable backup plan in the event James Conner is hurt.

Outside the Huddle

CONTINUING TO INSPIRE The ongoing recovery of Ryan Shazier continues to inspire the Steelers and football fans of all kinds. The latest great news came in early April, a little less than 16 months since Shazier's football career ended because of a brutal neck injury. Shazier was filmed performing a box jump in a post that promptly went viral. Later in the month, the Steelers, who have kept Shazier on the roster since the injury, placed him on the PUP list to officially end his 2019 season. The improbable comeback, though, is plowing forward.

MONEY TALKS The Steelers made their commitment to Ben Roethlisberger clear when they inked a two-year extension, ensuring he'll be in Pittsburgh through the 2021 season. The deal netted Roethlisberger an additional \$68 million. "Ben is one of the most productive quarterbacks in NFL history, and he continued to climb the lists among the all-time passing leaders in the league last season," Steelers President Art Rooney II said in a statement. "But I know Ben's focus is on only one goal — to bring another Lombardi Trophy back to Pittsburgh. We are excited to finalize this new contract that will keep him as a Steeler through the 2021 season."

NOT BACKING DOWN Joe Haden's former team, the Cleveland Browns, made one of the biggest moves of the NFL offseason when they acquired All-Pro wide receiver Odell Beckham Jr. in a trade with the Giants. A few days afterward, Haden was approached by TMZ and asked about the move. Needless to say, Haden's confidence isn't shaken. "I can't wait," Haden told TMZ. "You gotta go against the best to be the best."

18 DAYS TO REMEMBER If the Steelers' biggest obstacle in the AFC North is the Cleveland Browns, a wild 18 days in November and December await. In an odd schedule quirk, Pittsburgh is set to face Cleveland twice in a span of three weeks. The Steelers head to Cleveland for a Nov. 14 "Thursday Night Football" matchup before hosting the Browns on Dec. 1. It marks the first time since 2009 the Steelers won't begin or end the season with a game against their oldest rival.

THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT YEAR JuJu Smith-Schuster's campaign to grace the cover of "Madden 20" came up just short. A couple of days before EA Sports announced Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes as this year's cover boy, Smith-Schuster posted an image of his likeness on a Photoshopped cover. The post garnered nearly 10,000 retweets and more than 20,000 likes, but the video game juggernaut ultimately went with the 2018 MVP.

BREAKFAST IS ON STEVEN Newly signed cornerback Steven Nelson went out of his way to get his first face-to-face meeting with coach Mike Tomlin. According to ESPN.com, Nelson pitched a breakfast meeting with the coach during the league's owners meetings, which fell two weeks after the Steelers signed the former Chiefs ballhawk to a \$25.5 million deal. Nelson trains in Phoenix, which also served as the site of this year's meetings. "I wanted to introduce myself formally, look a man in the eyes and give him a sense of satisfaction of the type of player I am, the type of person I am, more so off the field," Nelson told ESPN.com.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

73.5

The Steelers converted a league-best 73.5 percent of their red zone possessions into touchdowns.

7.9

The defense ended opponents' drives with a turnover on just 7.9 percent of possessions, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.55

Ben Roethlisberger finished tied for first in the quickest average time to throw, at 2.55 seconds.



Houston TEXANS

AFC South Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Co-Founder/Senior Chair: Janice McNair
Chairman/CEO: D. Cal McNair
President: Jamey Rootes
General Manager: Brian Gaine
Stadium: NRG Stadium (71,995)
Surface: Hellas Matrix Turf
Website: www.houstontexans.com
Tickets: 832-667-2002
Training Camp: Houston Methodist Training Center (Houston, Texas)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bill O'Brien
Record With Team: 42-38
Career Record: 42-38
Assistant Head Coach/Defensive Coordinator: Romeo Crennel
Offensive Coordinator: Tim Kelly
Special Teams Coordinator: Brad Seely
Quarterbacks: Carl Smith
Running Backs: Danny Barrett
Wide Receivers: John Perry
Tight Ends: Tim Lawing
Offensive Line: Mike Devlin
Defensive Line: Anthony Weaver
Sr. Defensive Assistant/Outside Linebackers: John Pagano

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 9	at New Orleans (Mon.)	7:10	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	
Sept. 15	Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4t)	
Sept. 22	at L.A. Chargers	4:25	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)	
Sept. 29	Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)	
Oct. 6	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)	
Oct. 13	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)	
Oct. 20	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Oct. 27	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)	
Nov. 3	vs. Jacksonville (London)	9:30 am	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4t)	
BYE								
Nov. 17	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Nov. 21	Indianapolis (Thu.)	8:20	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Dec. 1	New England	8:20	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)	
Dec. 8	Denver	1:00	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)	
Dec. 15	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	
Dec. 21/22	at Tampa Bay	TBD	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	
Dec. 29	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	

The objectives entering Bill O'Brien's sixth season as coach of the Texans are to improve their disastrous pass protection and dreadful pass coverage. The Texans are coming off an 11-5 season and trying to win the AFC South for the fourth time under O'Brien.

Quarterback Deshaun Watson was sacked 62 times, most in the NFL since 2006. A lot of resources have been devoted to keeping him healthy. Other than the offensive line, the most significant changes will be in the secondary. If the Texans don't a better job of stopping quarterbacks such as Andrew Luck (Indianapolis) and Nick Foles (Jacksonville), they won't be able to defend their division title against the hard-charging Colts. Luck led the Colts to two victories in Houston, including a 21-7 humiliation of the Texans in the wild card round. When the Texans played at Philadelphia, Foles led the Eagles on a game-winning drive that ended with a field goal with no time remaining. The Texans want to avoid the roller-coaster ride of last season, when they started 0-3, won nine in a row and finished 2-2 before collapsing in the playoffs.

OFFENSE To address pass protection, general manager Brian Gaine signed veteran offensive tackle Matt Kalil and used first- and second-round picks on tackles Tytus Howard and Max Scharping. They also get back right tackle Seantrel Henderson, who began 2018 as the starter but suffered a broken ankle and didn't play again. Henderson could begin this season opposite Kalil, but that's not the ideal situation. Kalil missed last season at Carolina because of a knee injury. Another possible starter at left tackle is Julián Davenport, who was a disappointment in the starting role in 2018. At some point, Howard is going to be the starter, but he won't be force-fed into the lineup. Scharping will pressure Henderson but also could begin his career at guard. Center Nick Martin is the only starter guaranteed of being back in the lineup. Another new starter should be Martinas Rankin at left guard. He was a third-round pick last year and should beat out Senio Kelemete.

Despite getting pulverized, Watson didn't miss a start while returning from surgery that repaired a torn ACL. He had a terrific season, throwing for 4,165 yards and 26 touchdowns and contributing another 551 yards rushing and five touchdowns. The coaches were impressed with his 68.3 completion percentage and 103.1 rating. They expect him to be even better this season against a first-place schedule.

The only receiver Watson can count on is DeAndre Hopkins, who has missed one game in his first six seasons. The other starters, Will Fuller (knee) and Keke Coutee (hamstring) in the slot, combined to miss 19 games. Hopkins has great hands and ball skills. His catch radius is substantial. He had 115 receptions for 1,572 yards and 11 touchdowns on 163 targets. Fuller's coaches and teammates salivate at the thought of him finally playing an injury-free season. He has 11 touchdown catches in 11 games with Watson the last two seasons. His outstanding speed takes pressure off Hopkins and helps clear the middle of the field for Coutee. After catching 28 passes as a rookie, Coutee showed why the coaches are high on him in the playoff loss to Indianapolis, catching 11 passes for 110 yards and a touchdown.

There's a crowd at tight end. Jordan Akins (13.2-yard average) and Jordan Thomas (four touchdowns) enter their second seasons. Akins is a better route runner and receiver, but Thomas (6'5", 277) is an inviting red zone target who



DE **J.J. WATT**



2018 RESULTS (11-5)

Sept. 9	at New England	L	20-27
Sept. 16	at Tennessee	L	17-20
Sept. 23	N.Y. Giants	L	22-27
Sept. 30	at Indianapolis (ot)	W	37-34
Oct. 7	Dallas (ot)	W	19-16
Oct. 14	Buffalo	W	20-13
Oct. 21	at Jacksonville	W	20-7
Oct. 25	Miami	W	42-23
Nov. 4	at Denver	W	19-17
Nov. 18	at Washington	W	23-21
Nov. 26	Tennessee	W	34-17
Dec. 2	Cleveland	W	29-13
Dec. 9	Indianapolis	L	21-24
Dec. 15	at N.Y. Jets	W	29-22
Dec. 23	at Philadelphia	L	30-32
Dec. 30	Jacksonville	W	20-3
Postseason			
Jan. 5	Indianapolis	L	7-21

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Deshaun Watson	505	345	4,165	26	9
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Lamar Miller	210	973	4.6	5	
Deshaun Watson	99	551	5.6	5	
Alfred Blue	150	499	3.3	2	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
DeAndre Hopkins	115	1,572	13.7	11	
Will Fuller	32	503	15.7	4	
Ryan Griffin	24	305	12.7	0	
Keke Coutee	28	287	10.3	1	
Demaryius Thomas	23	275	12.0	2	
Jordan Akins	17	225	13.2	0	

KICKING: Ka'imi Fairbairn, 37-42 FGs, 39-41 PAT, 150 points

TACKLES: Zach Cunningham, 107; Benardrick McKinney, 105

SACKS: J.J. Watt, 16.0; Jadeveon Clowney, 9.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Andre Hal, 3; Justin Reid, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	362.6	15	8
Rushing	126.3	8	4
Passing	236.3	17	7
Scoring	25.1	11	6
Third Down %	37.0	20	10
Punt Returns	8.6	15	12
Kick Returns	24.4	T7	T5
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	343.1	12	8
Rushing	82.7	3	1
Passing	260.4	28	14
Scoring	19.8	T4	T3
Interceptions	15	T9	T6
Sacks	43	T11	T4
Turnover Differential	+13	2	1

has improved as a blocker. They'll compete for playing time with Kahale Warring, a surprise third-round pick.

Familiar running backs return in Lamar Miller and D'Onta Foreman. The coaches would like to use Miller more in the passing game, but the protection has been so bad that he's been forced to stay in to protect Watson. Foreman had a wasted season returning from a torn Achilles tendon.

DEFENSE Because every starter in the front seven returns, the Texans should be exceptional against the run again. Pressuring the quarterback wasn't much of a problem and shouldn't be again, not with end J.J. Watt and outside linebacker Jadeveon Clowney being such disruptive forces. The issue was pass coverage, especially in the last four games of the regular season and the playoff loss to the Colts. Gone are safety Tyrann Mathieu and cornerback Kareem Jackson; in are safety Tashaun Gipson and cornerback Bradley Roby. They also signed a slot corner, Brian Boddy-Calhoun, and drafted cornerbacks Lonnie Johnson (second round) and Xavier Crawford (sixth).

Last year, Watt, Clowney and outside linebacker Whitney Mercilus were coming off major surgery and spent most of the offseason and preseason undergoing rehabilitation. They enjoyed injury-free seasons. In his first healthy season since 2015, Watt registered 16 sacks and was excellent against the run. Clowney, who's superb against the run, moves around on defense depending on what coordinator Romeo Crennel calls. He was designated as the franchise player and didn't participate in the offseason program.

Nose tackle Brandon Dunn and right end D.J. Reader are solid against the run but are not pass rushers. Veteran Angelo Blackson and rookie Charles Omenihu should be part of the rotation up front. They're hoping Omenihu provides some inside pressure. Inside linebackers Benardrick McKinney and Zach Cunningham are ferocious against the run. McKinney works hard in coverage but can't keep up with the faster backs. Cunningham has the speed and smarts to cover backs and tight ends.

The Texans' best defensive back is second-year safety Justin Reid. He was a third-round pick who played like a No. 1 draft choice. He'll start opposite Gipson, who had a knack for covering tight ends at Jacksonville. Gipson isn't as versatile as Mathieu, but they don't need him to be. A third safety will have to emerge to replace Andre Hal, who beat cancer last year, returned for the second half of the season and made some big plays before announcing his retirement. To bolster depth behind Reid and Gipson, the Texans added Jahleel Addae, who spent the last six years with the Chargers and started every game the last two seasons. Lining up at cornerback should be Roby, who signed a one-year contract worth \$10 million, and Johnathan Joseph, 35. Aaron Colvin, a prominent free agent signing last year, was a disappointment during an injury-plagued season. They need him to excel in the slot as he did at Jacksonville. In the draft, the coaches wanted to get bigger and faster at corner. Johnson (6'2", 213) improved his 4.52 at the Combine to 4.39 at his pro day.

SPECIALISTS In special teams coordinator Brad Seely's first season with the Texans, they made significant improvement. That improvement was seen in opponent starting field position (first in the league), opponent field position after kickoffs (first), opponent kickoff return average (third) and starting field position (second). Placekicker Ka'imi Fairbairn led the NFL with 150 points and consistently kicked off into the end zone. Rookie free agent punter Trevor Daniel beat out Shane Lechler. His gross (43.7-yard average) and net (39.1) didn't impress, but he had 36 punts inside the 20, five touchbacks and 23 fair catches.

FINAL ANALYSIS Based on the Texans' investment in the offensive line and secondary, if they improve enough in pass protection and coverage, they're capable of winning the AFC South again. Watson is an amazing talent who can throw and run. His maturity should help reduce the sacks. They could have one of the NFL's most successful passing games if Fuller and Coutee stay healthy and one of the young tight ends develops into a formidable threat. If the Texans can develop a third pass rusher to go with Watt and Clowney, it'll improve the coverage immensely. This is a talented team, but it still has holes and plays in a competitive division that should be strong from top to bottom.



DESHAUN WATSON



2019 VETERAN TEXANS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
2 McCarron, AJ	QB	6-3	215	4 Alabama	FA-Oak-19	D5-Cin-14	
4 Watson, Deshaun	QB	6-2	215	2 Clemson	D1-17	D1-Hou-17	
5 Webb III, Joe	QB	6-4	231	9 UAB	FA-Buf-18	D6-Min-10	
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
40 Ferguson, Josh	RB	5-10	205	3 Illinois	FA-18	FA-Ind-16	
27 Foreman, D'Onta	RB	6-1	236	2 Texas	D3-17	D3-Hou-17	
38 Howell, Buddy	RB	6-1	218	1 Florida Atlantic	W-Mia-18	FA-Mia-18	
26 Miller, Lamar	RB	5-10	221	7 Miami	FA-Mia-16	D4-Mia-12	
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
89 Adams, Jerrell	TE	6-5	254	3 South Carolina	FA-18	D6-NYG-16	
88 Akins, Jordan	TE	6-4	243	1 UCF	D3c-18	D3c-Hou-18	
14 Carter, DeAndre	WR	5-8	190	1 Sacramento State	W-Phi-18	FA-Bal-15	
16 Coutee, Keke	WR	5-11	187	1 Texas Tech	D4-18	D4-Hou-18	
87 Fells, Darren	TE	6-7	270	5 California-Irvine	FA-Cle-19	FA-Sea-13	
15 Fuller V, Will	WR	6-0	184	3 Notre Dame	D1-16	D1-Hou-16	
84 Griffin, Ryan	TE	6-6	264	6 Connecticut	D6d-13	D6d-Hou-13	
10 Hopkins, DeAndre	WR	6-1	212	6 Clemson	D1-13	D1-Hou-13	
11 Mitchell Jr., Steven	WR	5-10	186	1 USC	FA-18	FA-LAR-18	
17 Smith, Vyncint	WR	6-3	202	1 Limestone	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
83 Thomas, Jordan	TE	6-5	277	1 Mississippi State	D6b-18	D6b-Hou-18	
86 Weah, Jester	WR	6-3	209	1 Pittsburgh	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
19 Whitney, Isaac	WR	6-2	204	1 USC	FA-18	FA-Oak-17	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
70 Davenport, Julián	T	6-7	325	2 Bucknell	D4a-17	D4a-Hou-17	
73 Fulton, Zach	C/G	6-5	321	5 Tennessee	FA-KC-18	D6a-KC-14	
76 Henderson, Seantrel	T	6-7	351	5 Miami	FA-Buf-18	D7b-Buf-14	
63 Johnson, Roderick	T	6-6	306	2 Florida State	W-Cle-18	D5-Cle-17	
75 Kalil, Matt	T	6-7	315	7 USC	FA-Car-19	D1a-Min-12	
64 Kelemete, Senio	G	6-3	301	6 Washington	FA-NO-18	D5-Ari-12	
72 Leonard, Rick	T	6-7	311	1 Florida State	FA-18	D4-NO-18	
65 Mancz, Greg	C/G	6-4	302	4 Toledo	FA-15	FA-Hou-15	
66 Martin, Nick	C	6-4	295	3 Notre Dame	D2-16	D2-Hou-16	
75 Rankin, Martin	T/G	6-5	311	1 Mississippi State	D3b-18	D3b-Hou-18	
77 Shakir, Maurquice	G	6-4	326	2 Middle Tennessee	FA-18	FA-Bal-17	
79 Steinmetz, David	T	6-8	321	1 Purdue	FA-18	FA-Mia-18	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
97 Blackson, Angelo	DL	6-4	319	4 Auburn	FA-17	D4-Ten-15	
92 Dunn, Brandon	NT	6-2	310	3 Louisville	FA-15	FA-Chi-14	
93 Heath, Joel	DE	6-6	302	3 Michigan State	FA-16	FA-Hou-16	
98 Reader, D.J.	DL	6-3	347	3 Clemson	D5b-16	D5b-Hou-16	
91 Watkins, Carlos	DE	6-3	297	2 Clemson	D4b-17	D4b-Hou-17	
99 Watt, J.J.	DE	6-5	288	8 Wisconsin	D1-11	D1-Hou-11	
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
50 Adams, Tyrell	ILB	6-2	230	3 West Georgia	FA-18	FA-Sea-15	
48 Bellamy, Davin	OLB	6-5	259	1 Georgia	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
90 Clowney, Jadeveon	OLB	6-5	255	5 South Carolina	D1-14	D1-Hou-14	
51 Cole, Dylan	ILB	6-0	237	2 Missouri State	FA-17	FA-Hou-17	
41 Cunningham, Zach	ILB	6-3	238	2 Vanderbilt	D2-17	D2-Hou-17	
53 Ejiofor, Duke	OLB	6-4	255	1 Wake Forest	D6a-18	D6a-Hou-18	
58 Kalambayi, Peter	ILB	6-3	254	1 Stanford	D6c-18	D6c-Hou-18	
42 Landrum, Chris	OLB	6-2	245	3 Jacksonville State	FA-18	FA-LAC-16	
55 McKinney, Benardrick	ILB	6-4	257	4 Mississippi State	D2-15	D2-Hou-15	
59 Mercilus, Whitney	OLB	6-4	258	7 Illinois	D1-12	D1-Hou-12	
57 Scarlett, Brennan	OLB	6-4	263	3 Stanford	FA-16	FA-Hou-16	
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Addae, Jahleel	S	5-10	195	6 Central Michigan	FA-LAC-19	FA-LAC-13	
23 Bademosi, Johnson	CB	6-0	219	7 Stanford	FA-NE-18	FA-Cle-12	
30 Boddy-Calhoun, Brian	CB	5-9	193	3 Minnesota	FA-Cle-19	FA-Jac-16	
22 Burton, Deante	CB	6-2	205	1 Kansas State	FA-18	FA-Alt-17	
20 Colvin, Aaron	CB	6-0	191	5 Oklahoma	FA-Jac-18	D4-Jac-14	
39 Gipson Sr., Tashaun	S	5-11	212	7 Wyoming	FA-Jac-19	FA-Cle-12	
37 Hendy, A.J.	S	6-0	206	1 Maryland	FA-18	FA-Mia-16	
24 Joseph, Johnathan	CB	5-11	186	13 South Carolina	FA-Cin-11	D1-Cin-06	
35 Kelly Jr., Jermaine	CB	6-1	204	1 San Jose State	D7-18	D7-Hou-18	
33 Moore, A.J.	S	5-11	200	1 Ole Miss	W-NE-18	FA-NE-18	
20 Reid, Justin	S	6-1	203	1 Stanford	D3a-18	D3a-Hou-18	
21 Roby, Bradley	CB	5-11	194	5 Ohio State	FA-Den-19	D1-Den-14	
34 Tyson, Mike	S	6-2	200	1 Cincinnati	FA-18	D6-Sea-17	
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
8 Daniel, Trevor	P	6-1	231	1 Tennessee	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
7 Fairbairn, Ka'imi	K	6-0	183	3 UCLA	FA-16	FA-Hou-16	
46 Weeks, Jon	LS	5-10	242	9 Baylor	FA-10	FA-Hou-10	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	10	DeAndre Hopkins	86	Jester Weah
WR	16	Keke Coutee	14	DeAndre Carter
WR	15	Will Fuller	17	Vyncint Smith
LT	75	Matt Kalil	70	Julián Davenport
LG	77	Martinas Rankin	64	Senio Kelemete
C	66	Nick Martin	65	Greg Mancz
RG	73	Zach Fulton	74	Max Scharping (R)
RT	76	Seantrel Henderson	71	Tytus Howard (R)
TE	83	Jordan Thomas	88	Jordan Akins
QB	4	Deshaun Watson	2	AJ McCarron
RB	26	Lamar Miller	27	D'Onta Foreman

DEFENSE

DE	99	J.J. Watt	93	Joel Heath
NT	92	Brandon Dunn	97	Angelo Blackson
DE	98	D.J. Reader	91	Carlos Watkins
OLB	59	Whitney Mercilus	57	Brennan Scarlett
ILB	55	Benardrick McKinney	58	Peter Kalambayi
ILB	41	Zach Cunningham	51	Dylan Cole
OLB	90	Jadeveon Clowney	53	Duke Ejiofor
CB	24	Johnathan Joseph	32	Lonnie Johnson (R)
CB	21	Bradley Roby	22	Aaron Colvin
SS	39	Tashaun Gipson		Jahleel Addae
FS	20	Justin Reid	34	Mike Tyson

SPECIALISTS

K	7	Ka'imi Fairbairn	KR	14	DeAndre Carter
P	8	Trevor Daniel	PR	14	DeAndre Carter

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
S	Jahleel Addae	L.A. Chargers
CB	Brian Boddy-Calhoun	Cleveland
TE	Darren Fells	Cleveland
S	Tashaun Gipson	Jacksonville
OT	Matt Kalil	Carolina
QB	AJ McCarron	Oakland
CB	Bradley Roby	Denver

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
RB	Alfred Blue	Jacksonville
DT	Christian Covington	Dallas
FS	Andre Hal	Retired
CB	Kareem Jackson	Denver
CB	Kevin Johnson	Buffalo
OT	Kendall Lamm	Cleveland
S	Tyrann Mathieu	Kansas City
WR	Demaryius Thomas	New England

SCOUTING THE TEXANS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP HOUSTON "Bill O'Brien has steadily kept the Texans in the mix every year. ... If the identity of an NFL team is defined by its coach and quarterback, Houston should stay competitive for seasons to come. Deshaun Watson rebounded from an injury-shortened rookie campaign to play in all 16 games. His best football is ahead of him with regard to clock management and end-of-game situations. ... DeAndre Hopkins is arguably the best receiver in the NFL. They have struggled to find a dependable No. 2 because Will Fuller cannot stay healthy. ... The biggest issue for them is their offensive line play. Last year, they put an inordinate amount of pressure on Julián Davenport at left tackle, and he was exposed. They drafted Alabama State tackle Tytus Howard in the first, then Max Scharping from Northern Illinois in the second. ... Romeo Crennel directs the front seven, and his best asset is Jadeveon Clowney, whom they franchise tagged. Whitney Mercilus and J.J. Watt are capable, but both have been undercut by injuries. Duke Ejiofor was a pleasant surprise and should be more prominent in 2019. ... Benardrick McKinney and Zach Cunningham are classic 'box' linebackers, and both are consistent producers. ... Like the OL, their secondary will be questioned going into the season. They lost Kareem Jackson and Tyrann Mathieu in free agency, released Kevin Johnson and replaced them with Bradley Roby, Tashaun Gipson and Kentucky rookie Lonnie Johnson. ... In a very balanced division, Houston will compete for the playoffs again — just not sure they can advance beyond the divisional round."



Texans IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Tytus Howard	OT	6-5	322	Alabama State
2.	Lonnie Johnson	CB	6-2	213	Kentucky
2.	Max Scharping	OT	6-6	327	Northern Illinois
3.	Kahale Warring	TE	6-6	251	San Diego State
5.	Charles Omenihu	DE	6-5	280	Texas
6.	Xavier Crawford	CB	5-11	187	Central Michigan
7.	Cullen Gillaspia	FB	6-2	235	Texas A&M

The Texans went into the draft with needs at offensive tackle and cornerback. They selected tackles in the first two rounds and cornerbacks in the second and sixth. At some point this season they expect Tytus Howard and Max Scharping to start. They started on both sides in college, including at guard. Lonnie Johnson plays outside and could eventually replace Johnathan Joseph. The Texans didn't need another tight end, but general manager Brian Gaine took Kahale Warring because of his excellent upside. Charles Omenihu could provide an inside pass rush. Xavier Crawford will try to earn playing time as a reserve. Cullen Gillaspia should excel on special teams.

B-

Outside the Huddle

CORE FOUR In February, coach Bill O'Brien hired four of his former players for entry-level positions — receiver Andre Johnson (personnel and coaching), linebacker Brian Cushing (linebackers and strength and conditioning), quarterback T.J. Yates (quarterbacks) and linebacker Akeem Dent (linebackers). Johnson's goal is to eventually become a general manager or team president.

WATSON WORLD TRAVELER During his last two offseasons, quarterback Deshaun Watson has traveled the world. This year, he visited five countries, putting on football camps for kids. He went to China, England, Austria, Italy and Egypt. "Traveling is something I've always dreamed about," he says. "I loved history class when I was in school. I love to meet new people and try to expand my brain and my cultural experiences." While in Egypt, Watson posted a picture on Instagram of him standing on a camel. "I don't know what they said to the camel to make it stay still," he says. "They said something in whatever language they were speaking. It stood there, and I hopped on. It was cool."

BACK TO SCHOOL Defensive end J.J. Watt gave the commencement address at his college, the University of Wisconsin. He'll be back in his home state in August when the Texans have joint practices at Green Bay before they play a preseason game against the Packers. "I'm really excited," says Watt, who grew up in Pewaukee, Wis. "I went to training camp in Green Bay as a kid. I stood by the parking lot fence and asked for autographs. I was like, 'That's the coolest job in the world. They play

football for a living.' That was one of the first moments when I realized how special that was and how hard I wanted to work toward it."

MAKING DRAFT HISTORY In their first 17 drafts, the Texans selected two offensive tackles in the first two rounds: Chester Pitts (second) in 2002 and Duane Brown (first) in 2008. In April, they drafted two tackles — Tytus Howard in the first round and Max Scharping in the second.

WHAT'S IN A NUMBER Texas A&M takes great pride in its 12th Man, a player who walks on, gets to cover kicks and, hopefully, earns a scholarship. The Texans' seventh-round draft choice, fullback and special teams star Cullen Gillaspia, grew up in a Houston suburb and reached two milestones at A&M. He became the first 12th Man to score a touchdown and the first to be drafted.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING The best way for the Texans to win is to lead at halftime. In O'Brien's first five seasons, the Texans have gone 32-2 when they've had the halftime lead. Their 94.1 winning percentage is the best in the NFL during that period. New England is second (92.9).

HOP AT THE TOP Last season, DeAndre Hopkins caught 115 passes for 1,572 yards and 11 touchdowns without dropping a single pass. Over the last two seasons, Hopkins ranks first in the NFL in targets (339) and first downs receiving (150). He's tied for first in touchdown catches (24). He's second in catches (211), yards (2,950) and catches of at least 25 yards (31).

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	9
2015	9
2016	9
2017	4
2018	11

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

8.4

The Texans turned the ball over on 8.4 percent of their offensive drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

20.7

Houston converted a league-high 20.7 percent of its offensive drives into field goals.

25.57

The Texans had the best average starting field position on defensive drives, averaging at the 25.57 yard line.



Indianapolis COLTS

AFC South Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/CEO: James Irsay
General Manager: Chris Ballard
Assistant General Manager: Ed Dodds
VP of Player Personnel: Rex Hogan
Stadium: Lucas Oil Stadium (67,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.colts.com
Tickets: 317-262-3389
Training Camp: Grand Park Sports Campus (Westfield, Ind.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Frank Reich
Record With Team: 10-6
Career Record: 10-6
Offensive Coordinator: Nick Sirianni
Defensive Coordinator: Matt Eberflus
Special Teams Coordinator: Bubba Ventrone
Quarterbacks: Marcus Brady
Running Backs: Tom Rathman
Wide Receivers: Kevin Patullo
Tight Ends: Jason Michael
Offensive Line: Chris Strausser
Defensive Line: Mike Phair
Linebackers: Dave Borbonzi
Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks: Jonathan Gannon
Defensive Backs/Safeties: Alan Williams

Are there any limits on what the resurgent Colts can accomplish? Quarterback Andrew Luck is healthy and happy after a solid 2018 season in which he was named NFL Comeback Player of the Year. General manager Chris Ballard continues to show that he and his front office staff can find NFL-ready talent in the draft with more key pieces added to the mix. Head coach Frank Reich proved in his first season to be the steady, self-assured leader the Colts needed to stay the course after a 1-5 start and win nine of 10 games to reach the playoffs for the first time since 2014, the last time they were Super Bowl contenders and reached the AFC title game.

The Colts are back in the conversation as one of the NFL's best up-and-coming teams because they have strong leadership in all of the most important areas.

OFFENSE When Luck sat out 2017 due to shoulder surgery, the Colts dipped to 4-12, their worst record since 2-14 in 2011 — a year that gave the team the No. 1 overall pick, which it used on Luck. He drove them to the playoffs in each of his first three seasons. Healthy again last year, he took them back there with career highs in pass completion percentage (67.3), passer rating (98.7) and touchdown-to-interception ratio (plus-24).

The playoff loss to the Chiefs did reveal some weaknesses. Luck needed more weapons. While tight end Eric Ebron had a career-best 13 touchdowns in his first season with the Colts, earning his first Pro Bowl nod, the team struggled to generate offense at times when Pro Bowl star wide receiver T.Y. Hilton was hurt. That's why Ballard signed wide receiver Devin Funchess in free agency. It's just a one-year deal, because Funchess has to prove he's worth big money. But the Colts are confident it will pay off, because he's the kind of big receiver they've lacked since the days of Reggie Wayne. Defenses won't be able to double Funchess because of Ebron and Hilton. Ballard also added speedy rookie wide receiver Parris Campbell in the draft's second round. His quickness rivals that of Hilton. Expect Campbell to get plenty of opportunities in three-wide receiver sets, which should mean headaches for defenses.

An offensive line bolstered last year by the addition of rookie offensive guard Quenton Nelson, who was named to the AP All-Pro first team, returns intact. Luck wasn't sacked in a career-best five consecutive games.

The other area in need of improvement is a rushing offense that ranked just 21st in yards per carry but showed promise at times with back-to-back games of more than 200 yards in October. Third-year pro Marlon Mack became the first Colts back with four 100-yard rushing games in a season since Joseph Addai in 2007. Mack added another in the playoff win at Houston. He just needs to stay healthy. He's missed six games due to injuries.

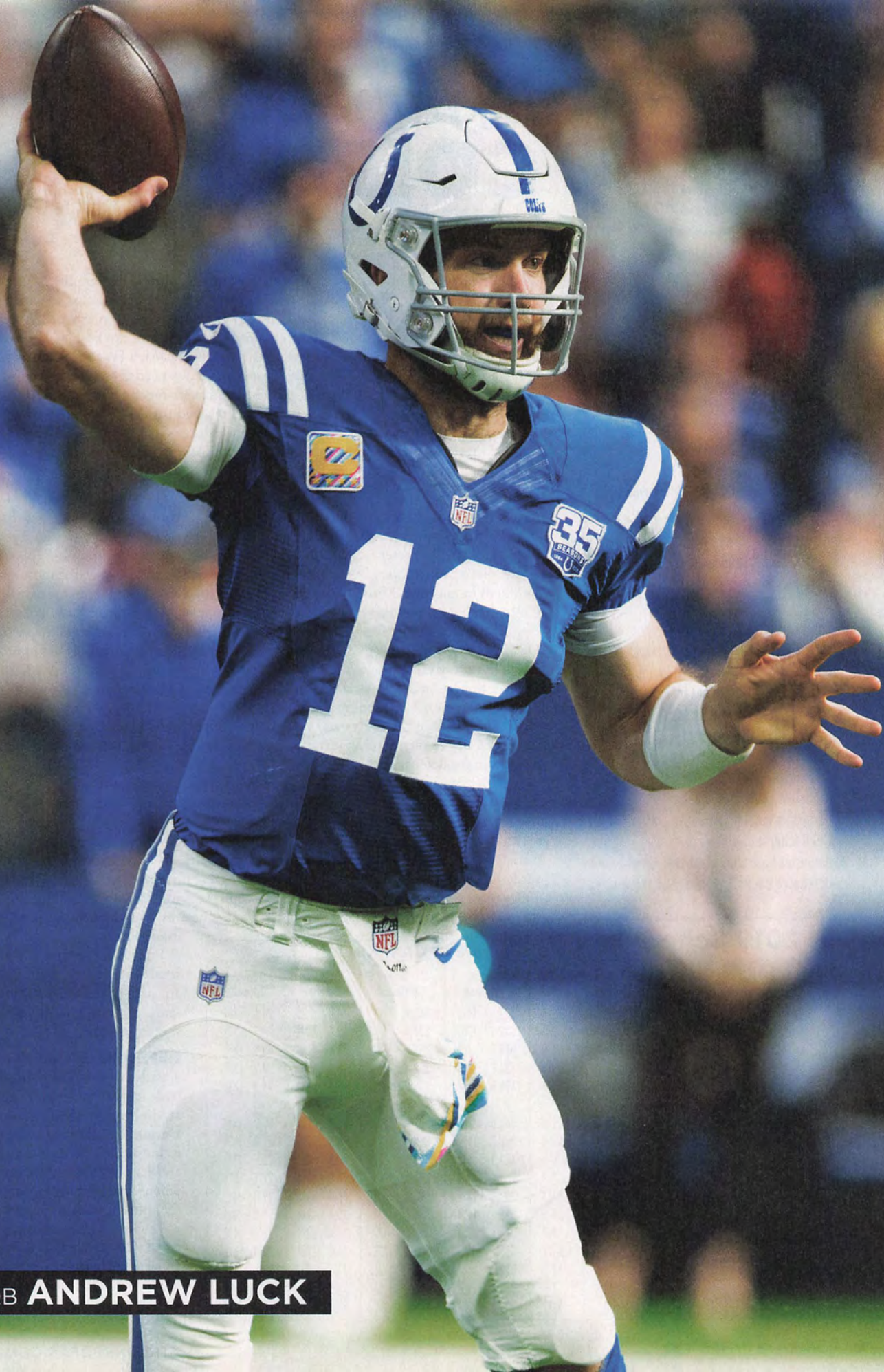
Put it all together with Reich's smart play-calling abilities, and an offense that ranked fifth in scoring at 27.1 points per game should improve.

DEFENSE If the Colts are on a path to the Super Bowl, Ballard might look back someday at drafting weak-side linebacker Darius Leonard in the second round in 2018 as his most important decision. Leonard became the defense's undisputed leader from the outset with an interception of Luck in training camp. He finished with an NFL-best 163 total tackles and also had seven sacks, four forced fumbles and two interceptions.

2019 Schedule

2018 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
Sept. 15	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Sept. 22	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Sept. 29	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Oct. 6	at Kansas City	8:20	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
BYE							
Oct. 20	Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4)
Oct. 27	Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Nov. 3	at Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 10	Miami	4:05	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Nov. 17	Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)
Nov. 21	at Houston (Thu.)	8:20	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4)
Dec. 1	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Dec. 8	at Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Dec. 16	at New Orleans (Mon.)	8:15	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Dec. 22	Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)
Dec. 29	at Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)



QB **ANDREW LUCK**



2018 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 9	Cincinnati	L	23-34
Sept. 16	at Washington	W	21-9
Sept. 23	at Philadelphia	L	16-20
Sept. 30	Houston (ot)	L	34-37
Oct. 4	at New England	L	24-38
Oct. 14	at N.Y. Jets	L	34-42
Oct. 21	Buffalo	W	37-5
Oct. 28	at Oakland	W	42-28
Nov. 11	Jacksonville	W	29-26
Nov. 18	Tennessee	W	38-10
Nov. 25	Miami	W	27-24
Dec. 2	at Jacksonville	L	0-6
Dec. 9	at Houston	W	24-21
Dec. 16	Dallas	W	23-0
Dec. 23	N.Y. Giants	W	28-27
Dec. 30	at Tennessee	W	33-17
Postseason			
Jan. 5	at Houston	W	21-7
Jan. 12	at Kansas City	L	13-31

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Andrew Luck	639	430	4,593	39	15
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Marlon Mack	195	908	4.7	9	
Jordan Wilkins	60	336	5.6	1	
Nyheim Hines	85	314	3.7	2	
Andrew Luck	46	148	3.2	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
T.Y. Hilton	76	1,270	16.7	6	
Eric Ebron	66	750	11.4	13	
Chester Rogers	53	485	9.2	2	
Nyheim Hines	63	425	6.7	2	
Ryan Grant	35	334	9.5	1	

KICKING: Adam Vinatieri, 23-27 FGs, 44-47 PAT, 113 points

TACKLES: Darius Leonard, 163; Anthony Walker, 105

SACKS: Denico Autry, 9.0; Darius Leonard, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Kenny Moore, 3; two tied with 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	386.2	7	4
Rushing	107.4	20	12
Passing	278.8	6	3
Scoring	27.1	5	3
Third Down %	48.6	1	1
Punt Returns	9.0	13	10
Kick Returns	19.8	29	15

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	339.7	11	7
Rushing	101.9	8	4
Passing	237.8	16	7
Scoring	21.5	10	7
Interceptions	15	T9	T6
Sacks	38	T19	T8
Turnover Differential	+2	T13	7

While defensive coordinator Matt Eberflus did what he could with what he was given to finish 11th in total defense, the Colts still lacked playmakers, and a deeper defensive investment was the result. Ballard first reconnected with a player he knew well from his days in Kansas City's front office, pass rusher Justin Houston. The Colts tied for 19th with 38 sacks, so signing a four-time Pro Bowl star for two years is significant. Houston had 18.5 sacks in the last two seasons with the Chiefs and becomes the team's best pass

rusher since franchise sack leader Robert Mathis. His presence will force opposing offenses to scheme for him, which frees up others to make plays.

Ballard also used seven of his first eight draft picks on defensive players. The theme became obvious — fast and tough players like Leonard. Second-round pick Rock Ya-Sin is a physical and smart cornerback. The Colts are optimistic he will start right away alongside Pierre Desir, who was re-signed to a three-year, \$22.5-million contract. Second-round defensive end Ben Banogu will need some seasoning to be an every-down player, but expect him on the field in pass-rush situations. His quarterback-chasing athleticism is why he was drafted so high. Third-round linebacker Bobby Okereke could force his way into the lineup in the middle or on the strong side because he plays sideline to sideline with an intense motor. Fourth-round safety Khari Willis might not start right away, but he's a hard-hitting leader with a knack for making plays. Safety Malik Hooker returns as a secondary cornerstone. Safety Clayton Geathers was re-signed for one more year, but Willis should get his share of snaps.

The Colts might end up needing a bit more muscle inside on the defensive line, but defensive tackle/end Margus Hunt was re-signed because of his versatility, and second-year pro Tyquan Lewis shows tremendous promise with that same ability to play inside or out.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Adam Vinatieri still has a clutch leg at 46, which earned him another one-year deal to return for his 24th NFL season. Vinatieri made 23-of-27 field goals with a long of 54 last year. He also became the NFL's all-time leader in field goals and scoring. If a game is on the line, who else would you want than a four-time Super Bowl winner who has made two field goals to decide championships? Third-year punter Rigoberto Sanchez improved his net average to 42.7 yards, third in the league, and has a strong kickoff leg with 59 touchbacks in 88 attempts. Long snapper Luke Rhodes didn't get noticed, which means he hikes the ball without any botched plays. The Colts have been just so-so in the return game. Wide receivers Zach Pascal and Chester Rogers are expected to handle kickoffs and punts again. They took care of the ball with modest return averages.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Colts appear to be facing a tougher schedule with a road opener at the Los Angeles Chargers as well as away games at Kansas City, New Orleans and Pittsburgh. That said, this team has showed that it won't come unhinged when faced with adversity. Reich won over his locker room during the 1-5 start when he gambled unsuccessfully on a fourth down play in his own end, which ended up costing the Colts an overtime home loss to Houston. The players saw how much faith he put in them. Reich might be understated, but he's confident in his convictions, whether a fourth-down call succeeds or fails. He's willing to take that shot. And that trust was eventually rewarded by a locker room with character guys who were unselfish and bought into his belief. There's something to be said for a cohesive unit with players who play for each other. Luck and Leonard personify that attitude in the locker room. Egos don't enter the equation, which is quite rare in the NFL.

The Colts will undoubtedly be asked about lofty expectations, but as Reich preached last year, they will stay focused on just trying to go 1-0 each week and not overthink anything else. It might sound boring to the outside world, but it works for them. Barring too many major injury setbacks, the Colts should be rather formidable come January, with a chance to advance deep in the playoffs. A Super Bowl berth isn't out of the question, although it might prove to be at least another year and a few more key pieces away.



DARIUS LEONARD



2019 VETERAN COLTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Brissett, Jacoby	QB	6-4	235	3	NC State	T-NE-17		D3b-NE-16	
12	Luck, Andrew	QB	6-4	240	7	Stanford	D1-12		D1-Ind-12	
5	Walker, Phillip	QB	5-11	216	1	Temple	FA-17		FA-Ind-17	
RUNNING BACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Hines, Nyheim	RB	5-9	198	1	NC State	D4-18		D4-Ind-18	
25	Mack, Marlon	RB	6-0	210	2	South Florida	D4a-17		D4a-Ind-17	
40	Ware, Spencer	RB	5-10	229	5	LSU	FA-KC-19		D6-Sea-13	
20	Wilkins, Jordan	RB	6-1	216	1	Ole Miss	D5b-18		D5b-Ind-18	
39	Williams, Jonathan	RB	6-0	223	3	Arkansas	FA-18		D5-Buf-16	
RECEIVERS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
81	Alie-Cox, Mo	TE	6-5	267	1	VCU	FA-17		FA-Ind-17	
48	Brown, Billy	TE	6-4	255	1	Shepherd	FA-18		FA-Phi-17	
8	Cain, Deon	WR	6-2	202	1	Clemson	D6-18		D6-Ind-18	
84	Doyle, Jack	TE	6-6	262	6	Western Kentucky	W-Ten-13		FA-Ten-13	
85	Ebron, Eric	TE	6-4	253	5	North Carolina	FA-Det-18		D1-Det-14	
10	Fountain, Daurice	WR	6-2	210	1	Northern Iowa	D5a-18		D5a-Ind-18	
17	Funchess, Devin	WR	6-4	225	4	Michigan	FA-Car-19		D2-Car-15	
13	Hilton, T.Y.	WR	5-10	183	7	FIU	D3-12		D3-Ind-12	
83	Hogan, Krishawn	WR	6-3	222	1	Marian	FA-18		FA-Ari-17	
47	Holmes, Gabe	TE	6-5	255	2	Purdue	FA-19		FA-Oak-15	
17	Ishmael, Steve	WR	6-2	212	1	Syracuse	FA-18		FA-Ind-18	
16	Johnson, Marcus	WR	6-1	204	2	Texas	T-Sea-18		FA-Phi-16	
14	Pascal, Zach	WR	6-2	219	1	Old Dominion	W-Ten-18		FA-Was-17	
80	Rogers, Chester	WR	6-0	184	3	Grambling State	FA-16		FA-Ind-16	
43	Travis, Ross	TE	6-6	248	3	Penn State	W-KC-17		FA-KC-15	
8	Veasy, Jordan	WR	6-3	221	1	California	FA-19		FA-Ten-18	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
63	Andrews, Josh	C	6-2	311	3	Oregon State	FA-18		FA-Phi-14	
67	Boehm, Evan	G/C	6-3	310	3	Missouri	FA-18		D4-Ari-16	
74	Castonzo, Anthony	T	6-7	311	8	Boston College	D1-11		D1-Ind-11	
62	Clark, Le'Raven	T/G	6-5	311	3	Texas Tech	D3-16		D3-Ind-16	
79	Garcia, Antonio	T	6-7	302	1	Troy	FA-18		D3-NE-17	
64	Glowinski, Mark	G	6-4	310	4	West Virginia	W-Sea-17		D4-Sea-15	
73	Haeg, Joe	G/T	6-6	305	3	North Dakota St.	D5-16		D5-Ind-16	
78	Kelly, Ryan	C	6-4	309	3	Alabama	D1-16		D1-Ind-16	
56	Nelson, Quenton	C/G	6-5	330	1	Notre Dame	D1-18		D1-Ind-18	
0	Poehls, William	G	6-8	344	1	Montana	FA-18		FA-Ten-14	
72	Smith, Braden	G/T	6-6	315	1	Auburn	D2b-18		D2b-Ind-18	
61	Webb, J'Marcus	T	6-7	331	7	West Texas A&M	FA-18		D7-Chi-10	
76	Wesley, De'Ondre	T	6-6	331	3	BYU	FA-18		FA-Bal-15	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96	Autry, Denico	DL	6-5	270	5	Mississippi State	FA-Oak-18		FA-Oak-14	
99	Houston, Justin	DE	6-3	258	8	Georgia	FA-KC-19		D3a-KC-11	
92	Hunt, Margus	DT	6-8	298	6	SMU	FA-Cin-17		D2b-Cin-13	
94	Lewis, Tyquan	DL	6-3	269	1	Ohio State	D2d-18		D2d-Ind-18	
97	Muhammad, Al-Quadin	DE	6-4	250	2	Miami	W-NO-18		D6-NO-17	
59	Phillips, Carroll	DE	6-3	242	2	Illinois	FA-18		FA-Jac-17	
93	Sheard, Jabaal	DE	6-3	265	8	Pittsburgh	FA-NE-17		D2a-Cle-11	
90	Stewart, Grover	DT	6-4	333	2	Albany State	D4b-17		D4b-Ind-17	
57	Turay, Kemoko	DE	6-5	253	1	Rutgers	D2c-18		D2c-Ind-18	
51	Ward, Jihad	DT	6-5	290	3	Illinois	FA-18		D2-Oak-16	
58	Winbush, Anthony	DE	6-1	240	1	Ball State	FA-18		FA-Atl-18	
LINEBACKERS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
49	Adams, Matthew	LB	6-0	230	1	Houston	D7a-18		D7a-Ind-18	
44	Franklin, Zaire	LB	6-0	238	1	Syracuse	D7b-18		D7b-Ind-18	
53	Leonard, Darius	LB	6-2	234	1	South Carolina St.	D2a-18		D2a-Ind-18	
55	Moore, Skai	LB	6-2	230	1	South Carolina	FA-18		FA-Ind-18	
54	Thomas, Ahmad	LB	6-0	220	1	Oklahoma	FA-18		FA-Oak-17	
50	Walker, Anthony	LB	6-1	242	2	Northwestern	D5b-17		D5b-Ind-17	
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
32	Collins, Jalen	CB	6-1	203	3	LSU	FA-18		D2-Atl-15	
35	Desir, Pierre	CB	6-1	198	5	Lindenwood	W-Sea-17		D4-Cle-14	
41	Farley, Matthias	S	5-11	209	3	Notre Dame	W-Ari-16		FA-Ari-16	
26	Geathers, Clayton	S	6-2	220	4	UCF	D4-15		D4-Ind-15	
27	Hairston, Nate	CB	6-0	195	2	Temple	D5a-17		D5a-Ind-17	
29	Hooker, Malik	S	6-1	212	2	Ohio State	D1-17		D1-Ind-17	
38	Killings, D.J.	CB	6-0	185	1	UCF	FA-19		FA-NE-17	
36	Kindred, Derrick	S	5-10	210	3	TCU	W-Cle-19		D4c-Cle-16	
42	Milligan, Rolan	S	5-10	200	1	Toledo	FA-18		FA-Dal-16	
28	Milton, Chris	CB	5-11	196	3	Georgia Tech	FA-16		FA-Ind-16	
23	Moore II, Kenny	CB	5-9	190	2	Valdosta State	W-NE-17		FA-NE-17	
30	Odum, George	S	6-1	200	1	Central Arkansas	FA-18		FA-Ind-18	
31	Wilson, Quincy	CB	6-2	210	2	Florida	D2-17		D2-Ind-17	
SPECIALISTS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Rhodes, Luke	LS	6-2	238	2	William & Mary	FA-16		FA-TB-16	
2	Sanchez, Rigoberto	P	6-0	195	2	Hawaii	FA-17		FA-Ind-17	
4	Vinatieri, Adam	K	6-0	212	23	South Dakota St.	FA-NE-06		FA-NE-96	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	13	T.Y. Hilton	80	Chester Rogers
WR	17	Devin Funchess	15	Parris Campbell (R)
LT	74	Anthony Castonzo	62	Le'Raven Clark
LG	56	Quenton Nelson	67	Evan Boehm
C	78	Ryan Kelly	65	Javan Patterson (R)
RG	64	Mark Glowinski	63	Josh Andrews
RT	72	Braden Smith	73	Joe Haeg
TE	84	Jack Doyle	81	Mo Alie-Cox
TE	85	Eric Ebron	48	Billy Brown
QB	12	Andrew Luck	7	Jacoby Brissett
RB	25	Marlon Mack	21	Nyheim Hines

DEFENSE

DE	93	Jabaal Sheard	57	Kemoko Turay
NT	92	Margus Hunt	90	Grover Stewart
DT	96	Denico Autry	94	Tyquan Lewis
DE	99	Justin Houston	52	Ben Banogu (R)
OLB	49	Matthew Adams	58	Bobby Okereke (R)
MLB	50	Anthony Walker	54	Ahmad Thomas
OLB	53	Darius Leonard	91	Gerri Green (R)
CB	35	Pierre Desir	31	Quincy Wilson
CB	34	Rock Ya-Sin (R)	23	Kenny Moore
FS	29	Malik Hooker	30	George Odum
SS	26	Clayton Geathers	41	Matthias Farley

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Adam Vinatieri	KR	14	Zach Pascal
P	2	Rigoberto Sanchez	PR	80	Chester Rogers

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
WR	Devin Funchess	Carolina
DE	Justin Houston	Kansas City
S	Derrick Kindred	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Najee Goode	Free Agent
WR	Ryan Grant	Oakland
S	Mike Mitchell	Free Agent
DT	Hassan Ridgeway	Philadelphia
OG	Matt Slauson	Retired
NT	Al Woods	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE COLTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP INDIANAPOLIS "Andrew Luck proved again that when healthy, he is the franchise in Indianapolis. ... GM Chris Ballard's 2018 draft was phenomenal when you consider that guard Quenton Nelson will be a long-time consensus All-Pro and linebacker Darius Leonard earned all sorts of praise as a Rookie of the Year candidate. ... In the meantime, guard Braden Smith played extremely well on the inside as well, so their interior is set to protect Luck. ... Marlon Mack was much better than people expected, and he looks to be the key figure in any sort of backfield-by-committee that they construct. ... They added a power forward on the outside during free agency in Devin Funchess to go along with T.Y. Hilton, who has put together an impressive career. ... One of the most amazing stories across the entire NFL landscape was the re-birth of former Detroit Lions first-round pick Eric Ebron, who caught 66 passes and 13 touchdowns after being discarded from the Motor City. ... Defensive end Denico Autry quietly put together a nine-sack season. ... Leonard was spectacular, but inside linebacker Anthony Walker put together a 105-tackle campaign. ... The Colts needed big-time help at cornerback, so they drafted Rock Ya-Sin at the top of the second round. ... In many ways, it was a blessing that Josh McDaniels backed out of the head coaching job because Frank Reich was phenomenal with his strategy, leadership and overall emphasis on the team. ... If they can stay healthy and get more from their secondary, there is no reason to think the Colts cannot challenge in the AFC."

**B+**

Colts

IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Rock Ya-Sin	CB	6-0	192	Temple
2.	Ben Banogu	LB	6-3	250	TCU
2.	Parris Campbell	WR	6-0	205	Ohio State
3.	Bobby Okereke	LB	6-1	239	Stanford
4.	Khari Willis	S	5-11	213	Michigan State
5.	Marvell Tell III	CB	6-2	198	USC
5.	EJ Speed	LB	6-4	230	Tarleton State
6.	Gerri Green	DE	6-4	252	Mississippi State
7.	Jackson Barton	OT	6-7	310	Utah
7.	Javon Patterson	C	6-3	307	Ole Miss

The early-round picks will be expected to contribute immediately, especially Rock Ya-Sin, whom the Colts would like to see starting at cornerback. He's physical and plays smart but needs to show he has the quickness to cover. Ben Banogu will get his chances as a talented pass rusher, but he likely needs time to develop as an every-down player. Parris Campbell's 4.31-second 40-yard dash suggests he's every bit as fast as Colts Pro Bowl wide receiver T.Y. Hilton. Don't be surprised if Bobby Okereke wins a starting spot outside. His sideline-to-sideline skill set is said to be similar to Colts weak-side linebacker Darius Leonard. The Colts moved up 20 spots to select Khari Willis, another hard hitter who plays smart.



Outside the Huddle

LUCK TIES THE KNOT Quarterback Andrew Luck got married in March to longtime girlfriend Nicole Pechanec in the Czech Republic. "We've been together for a decade so not much has changed besides a ring on the finger. And she's got great insurance now," Luck said with a laugh.

OWNER ASSURANCE Colts owner Jim Irsay has promised at least one more title to go with the Super Bowl XLI victory in 2007. "It will happen, gentlemen. I promise you it will. I have never felt so certain about something in my life," Irsay said in April.

DANCE MACHINE Luck had some fun shooting a TV commercial to pitch BodyArmor's new sports drink. He initially turned down the offer until he heard the disco dance-off idea would put him alongside Angels star outfielder Mike Trout. "My initial reaction to just about everything is no," Luck says with a chuckle. "Then I thought about it and talked to my agent. He said Mike Trout was interested, and I admire him very much. Then thought about it and — why not? I think I feel much more comfortable making fun of myself than trying to be cool. So a chance to make fun of myself is alright."

WELCOME TO THE COLTS Fresh off a first-team All-Pro rookie season, guard Quenton Nelson has asserted himself as a team leader. He requested the cell phone numbers of all of the Colts draft picks so he could advise them about what it means "to wear the horseshoe."

"THE MANIAC" DOES IT ALL Linebacker Darius Leonard lived up to his nickname as the NFL's leading tack-

ler, but he's also got a big heart. An offseason viral video showed Leonard stopping to help his high school biology teacher Martha Isbell after her car blew a tire on Easter morning in Dillon County, S.C.

STAYING IN TOUCH Pass rusher Justin Houston cited his close relationship with Colts general manager Chris Ballard — the two were together in Kansas City — as a reason he signed with Indianapolis. "Just knowing him and the kind of guy he is, somebody I can trust and just talk to knowing I've got an honest answer and to know exactly what he's looking for and feel like I can help played a large role," Houston says.

SOMETHING TO PROVE Houston doesn't mince words about coming to the Colts with a bit of a chip on his shoulder pads. The four-time Pro Bowl pass rusher's 18.5 sacks in the past two seasons evidently prompted whispers that he was no longer a dominant player. "I have plenty in the tank," Houston says. "I think some people don't believe that, so it's more so what I am about to show the world than myself, because I know what I am capable of."

CONDI'S PROTÉGÉ Linebacker Bobby Okereke majored at Stanford in management science and engineering with a track in finance and decision analysis. The third-round pick also had the opportunity to be an intern for former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. "That was amazing," Okereke says. "I worked on the KPMG project with Condoleezza Rice. She just brought some underprivileged kids in and basically just toured them around Stanford. So I got to organize that. That was pretty cool."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	11	🏆
2015	8	
2016	8	
2017	4	
2018	10	🏆

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

29.5

The Colts scored a touchdown on 29.5 percent of their offensive drives, the fourth-highest rate in the NFL.

15.5

The Colts defense created turnovers on 15.5 percent of opponents' offensive drives, the fourth-highest rate in the NFL.

26.3

Indianapolis was the fastest-paced offense in the NFL, averaging a play every 26.3 seconds.



Jacksonville JAGUARS

AFC South Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Shad Khan
President: Mark Lamping
Executive VP of Football Operations: Tom Coughlin
General Manager: David Caldwell
Stadium: TIAA Bank Field (67,838)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.jaguars.com
Tickets: 904-633-2000
Training Camp: TIAA Bank Field (Jacksonville, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Doug Marrone
Record With Team: 16-18
Career Record: 31-35
Offensive Coordinator: John DeFilippo
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Wash
Special Teams Coordinator: Joe DeCamillis
Quarterbacks: Scott Milanovich
Running Backs: Terry Robiskie
Wide Receivers: Keenan McCardell
Tight Ends: Ron Middleton
Offensive Line: George Warhop
Asst. Defensive Line: Jason Rebrovich
Linebackers: Mark Collins
Secondary/Cornerbacks: Tim Walton
Secondary/Safeties: Joe Danna

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Sept. 15	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)
Sept. 19	Tennessee (Thu.)	8:20	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Sept. 29	at Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Oct. 6	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
Oct. 13	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Oct. 20	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Oct. 27	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Nov. 3	vs. Houston (London)	9:30 am	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)
BYE							
Nov. 17	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Nov. 24	at Tennessee	4:05	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Dec. 1	Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Dec. 8	L.A. Chargers	4:05	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)
Dec. 15	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Dec. 22	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Dec. 29	Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)

Asixth losing season in the seven years since he purchased the franchise convinced Jaguars owner Shad Khan that he needed to think big. Like Super Bowl MVP big. Changes were necessary after the Jaguars finished a disappointing 5-11 in 2018, and the changes started with the quarterback position. Blake Bortles was out, and Khan knew exactly who he wanted to replace him.

"I can tell you this, categorically, that as soon as the season was over, our dream was to get Nick Foles," Khan says. "And it happened."

And there is a renewed sense of optimism around the Jaguars because of it. They've made the playoffs just three times since the start of the 2000 season, but that wasn't part of coach Doug Marrone's message to the team this spring. The Jaguars will set out to get back to the postseason with the same fresh slate as every other NFL team — regardless of what happened the year before. If Foles and a revamped offense can produce more points — their 15.3 per game in 2018 didn't cut it — the Jaguars believe a still-talented defense will allow them to challenge in a suddenly competitive AFC South.

OFFENSE Once the Jaguars hired John DeFilippo to be their offensive coordinator in January, it seemed a formality that Foles would join him. The two last worked together in Philadelphia in 2017 when DeFilippo was the Eagles' quarterbacks coach and Foles filled in for an injured Carson Wentz. That ended with both of them under a thunderstorm of confetti after beating New England in the Super Bowl.

What the Jaguars need most from Foles is stability. He was steady during the regular season and dynamic in the playoffs during his two-year second stint in Philadelphia.

The Jaguars still want the identity of their offense to be built around running back Leonard Fournette. Such was the case during Fournette's rookie season in 2017, and he helped carry them to the AFC title game. Then came a mess. Fournette missed seven games due to injuries and another because of a suspension for fighting. He ran for only 439 yards and five touchdowns, derailing a team that was built to run, run, run and then run some more. Fournette is again expected to be the workhorse, but the Jaguars made adding depth behind him a focus. They signed Alfred Blue away from division rival Houston, took a chance on Thomas Rawls and drafted Ryquell Armstead out of Temple in the fifth round. Plenty of power, though none is a true pass-catching, third down back.

So, is it back to running the ball 25-30 times per game? Maybe not quite. If the Jaguars are able to establish their ground attack early in games, they believe they have the right group of receivers to take advantage of opposing defenses. Chris Conley was signed after a career year in Kansas City's high-volume offense, joining a group that will get back Mar-

quise Lee (torn ACL in 2018 pre-season) and includes Dede Westbrook, DJ Chark and Keelan Cole.

DeFilippo's track record suggests that the Jaguars could open up their playbook, mixing shotgun looks with play-action principles. Conley (6'3") and Chark (6'4") are big-bodied receivers who can work outside the numbers and downfield, but Westbrook should really spark DeFilippo's creativity. He led the team with 66 catches for 717 yards and five touchdowns and should push for his first 1,000-yard season with better quarterback play.

The Jaguars also drafted tight end Josh Oliver in the third round and signed Geoff Swaim. If they can provide any juice, that



RB **LEONARD FOURNETTE**



2018 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept. 9	at N.Y. Giants	W	20-15
Sept. 16	New England	W	31-20
Sept. 23	Tennessee	L	6-9
Sept. 30	N.Y. Jets	W	31-12
Oct. 7	at Kansas City	L	14-30
Oct. 14	at Dallas	L	7-40
Oct. 21	Houston	L	7-20
Oct. 28	Philadelphia	L	18-24
Nov. 11	at Indianapolis	L	26-29
Nov. 18	Pittsburgh	L	16-20
Nov. 25	at Buffalo	L	21-24
Dec. 2	Indianapolis	W	6-0
Dec. 6	at Tennessee	L	9-30
Dec. 16	Washington	L	13-16
Dec. 23	at Miami	W	17-7
Dec. 30	at Houston	L	3-20

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Blake Bortles	403	243	2,718	13	11
Cody Kessler	131	85	709	2	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Leonard Fournette	133	439	3.3	5	
T.J. Yeldon	104	414	4.0	1	
Blake Bortles	58	365	6.3	1	
Carlos Hyde	58	189	3.3	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Dede Westbrook	66	717	10.9	5	
Donte Moncrief	48	668	13.9	3	
Keelan Cole	38	491	12.9	1	
T.J. Yeldon	55	487	8.9	4	

KICKING: Josh Lambo, 19-21 FGs, 19-20 PAT, 76 points

TACKLES: Telvin Smith, 134; Myles Jack, 107

SACKS: Calais Campbell, 10.5; Yannick Ngakoue, 9.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Jalen Ramsey, 3; Telvin Smith, 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	302.0	27	13
Rushing	107.7	19	11
Passing	194.3	26	13
Scoring	15.3	31	16
Third Down %	40.4	14	6
Punt Returns	9.8	11	8
Kick Returns	20.5	25	12
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	311.4	5	3
Rushing	116.9	19	9
Passing	194.6	2	2
Scoring	19.8	T4	T3
Interceptions	11	T23	T14
Sacks	37	T22	T10
Turnover Differential	-12	T29	16

will be a huge plus. James O'Shaughnessy led Jaguars tight ends with 24 catches for 214 yards last season, and the team hasn't gotten a 100-yard game from the position since Julius Thomas on Nov. 29, 2015.

All of that said, it won't matter that the Jaguars upgraded their quarterback position if the offensive line doesn't play better in front of Foles. Crushed by injuries a year ago (right guard A.J. Cann was the only Week 1 starter to make it to Week 17), the Jaguars allowed 53 sacks, tied for third most in the league. They bring back four of five starters and add second-round right tackle Jawaan Taylor to replace Jermei Parnell.

The Jaguars aren't going to be confused with Kansas City or New Orleans. And that's fine. But they have to at least be competitive enough to give the defense a chance.

DEFENSE The Jaguars were tied for fourth in scoring defense (19.8 ppg) and ranked fifth in yards allowed (311.4 ypg) last season. So, why does it feel like the unit was such a disappointment? It has to start with a lack of game-changing plays. From 2017 to 2018, the Jaguars saw their sack total dip from 55 to 37, their takeaway count plunge from 33 to 17 and their trips to the end zone seemingly vanish.

And because of a series of salary cap cuts, it's not getting any easier. Gone are defensive tackle Malik Jackson and free safety Tashaun Gipson, two players who still have something in the tank. Up front, 2018 first-round pick Taven Bryan needs to show progress in replacing Jackson after a one-sack rookie season. On the back end, the Jaguars seem likely to go with the largely untested duo of Ronnie Harrison and Jarrod Wilson at the two safety spots. Those two have a combined 10 NFL starts.

That's the concerning part. The good news for the Jaguars is that defensive ends Calais Campbell and Yannick Ngakoue are still around to harass opposing quarterbacks, and cornerback Jalen Ramsey is still patrolling (and talking all kinds of trash) in the secondary along with A.J. Bouye. First-round pick Josh Allen arrives to spell Ngakoue as necessary when the Jaguars are in their base 4-3 defense, and he'll rush opposite him when they are in their sub package and move Campbell inside to work against opposing guards.

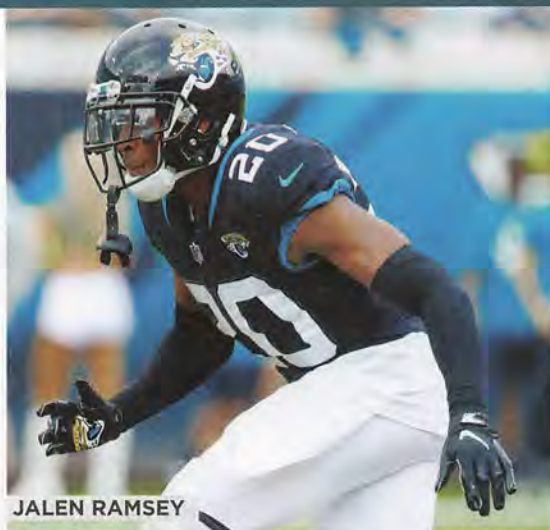
One of the more interesting training camp storylines is what the Jaguars will do at linebacker. They signed former Green Bay inside linebacker Jake Ryan, which could allow them to shift Myles Jack from middle to strong-side linebacker or add some 3-4 wrinkles. Early in the spring, the Jaguars pushed back on the idea of relocating Jack, but it's worth watching as the season gets closer. Simply put, weak-side linebacker Telvin Smith just needs to play better.

SPECIALISTS The Jaguars return two key components of their special teams in place-kicker Josh Lambo and punter Logan Cooke. They moved swiftly to re-sign Lambo to a four-year contract in February. Lambo solidified what had been a shaky kicking game, at one point making a team-record 24 consecutive field goals from November 2017 to November 2018, including a career-long 57-yarder against Philadelphia in London. Cooke settled down after a nervous start to finish with a net average of 41.3 yards per punt.

Another training camp competition will determine what the return game looks like. Westbrook is the favorite to handle punt returns, and free agent addition Benny Cunningham has experience returning kicks. His roster spot could depend on securing that role.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Jaguars believe that signing Foles answers the question that has weighed down the franchise for years, but other questions remain. Can Fournette stay healthy and be accountable? Did they move on from the wrong players in Gipson and Jackson to keep defensive tackle Marcell Dareus and acquire Foles? Will Marrone get through to a locker room that at times felt fractured during a five-win season?

If those answers are yes, no and yes, Foles and the Jaguars should compete for an AFC wild card spot. Anything short of that, and the Jaguars probably won't be a playoff team. Then, Khan could be thinking big again. Big staff changes.



JALEN RAMSEY



2019 VETERAN JAGUARS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
7 Foles, Nick	QB	6-6	243	7 Arizona	FA-Phi-19	D3-Phi-12	
6 Kessler, Cody	QB	6-1	215	3 USC	T-Cle-18	D3c-Cle-16	
3 Lee, Tanner	QB	6-4	218	1 Nebraska	D6-18	D6-Jac-18	
2 McGough, Alex	QB	6-3	214	1 FIU	FA-19	D7-Sea-18	
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
23 Blue, Alfred	RB	6-2	229	5 LSU	FA-Hou-19	D6b-Hou-14	
29 Cunningham, Benny	RB	5-10	218	6 Middle Tennessee	FA-Chi-19	FA-LAR-13	
35 Flowers, Dmitri	FB	6-2	248	1 Oklahoma	FA-18	FA-NYJ-17	
27 Fournette, Leonard	RB	6-0	228	2 LSU	D1-17	D1-Jac-17	
34 Rawls, Thomas	RB	5-9	215	4 Central Michigan	FA-19	FA-Sea-15	
33 Williams, Dave	RB	6-1	229	1 Arkansas	PS-Den-18	D7-Den-18	
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
16 Board, C.J.	WR	6-1	181	1 Chattanooga	FA-18	FA-Bal-17	
17 Chark, DJ	WR	6-4	198	1 LSU	D2-18	D2-Jac-18	
84 Cole, Keelan	WR	6-1	194	2 Kentucky Wesleyan	FA-17	FA-Jac-17	
18 Conley, Chris	WR	6-3	205	4 Georgia	FA-KC-19	D3a-KC-15	
83 Koyack, Ben	TE	6-5	258	3 Notre Dame	FA-18	D1-Jac-15	
11 Lee, Marqise	WR	6-0	196	5 USC	D2a-14	D2a-Jac-14	
86 McKever, Pharoah	TE	6-6	260	1 FIU	FA-18	FA-Pit-18	
80 O'Shaughnessy, James	TE	6-4	245	4 Illinois State	W-NE-17	D5-KC-15	
87 Swaim, Geoff	TE	6-4	260	4 Texas	FA-Dal-19	D7c-Dal-15	
12 Westbrook, Dede	WR	6-0	178	2 Oklahoma	D4-17	D4-Jac-17	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
60 Cann, A.J.	OL	6-3	315	4 South Carolina	D3-15	D3-Jac-15	
78 Ehinger, Parker	OL	6-6	310	3 Cincinnati	W-Dal-19	D4-KC-16	
65 Linder, Brandon	OL	6-6	315	5 Miami	D3-14	D3-Jac-14	
62 McDermott, KC	OL	6-5	311	1 Miami	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
68 Norwell, Andrew	OL	6-6	325	5 Ohio State	FA-Car-18	FA-Car-14	
77 Ogbuehi, Cedric	OL	6-5	308	4 Texas A&M	FA-Cin-19	D1-Cin-15	
76 Richardson, Will	OL	6-6	306	1 NC State	D4-18	D4-Jac-18	
74 Robinson, Cam	OL	6-6	320	2 Alabama	D2-17	D2-Jac-17	
69 Shatley, Tyler	OL	6-3	310	4 Clemson	FA-14	FA-Jac-14	
70 Thomas, Brandon	OL	6-3	317	2 Clemson	FA-18	D3-SF-14	
72 Wells, Josh	OL	6-6	306	4 James Madison	FA-14	FA-Jac-14	
61 Wester, Leonard	OL	6-6	305	3 Missouri Western	FA-TB-19	FA-TB-16	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
54 Ankou, Eli	DT	6-3	325	2 UCLA	W-Hou-17	FA-Hou-17	
90 Bryan, Taven	DL	6-5	291	1 Florida	D1-18	D1-Jac-18	
93 Campbell, Calais	DL	6-8	300	11 Miami	FA-Ari-17	D2-Ari-08	
99 Dareus, Marcell	DT	6-3	331	8 Alabama	T-Buf-17	D1-Buf-11	
67 Hughes, Michael	DT	6-2	308	1 UNLV	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
92 Johnson, Lyndon	DL	6-5	287	1 Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
95 Jones, Abry	DT	6-4	318	6 Georgia	FA-13	FA-Jac-13	
91 Ngakoue, Yannick	DE	6-2	246	3 Maryland	D3-16	D3-Jac-16	
94 Smoot, Dawuane	DE	6-3	264	2 Illinois	D3-17	D3-Jac-17	
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
53 Brown, Blair	LB	6-0	238	2 Ohio	D5-17	D5-Jac-17	
57 DeLuca, Nick	LB	6-3	245	1 North Dakota St.	FA-18	FA-Ten-18	
Goode, Najee	LB	6-0	244	7 West Virginia	FA-Ind-19	D5-TB-12	
44 Jack, Myles	LB	6-1	244	3 UCLA	D2-16	D2-Jac-16	
48 Jacobs, Leon	LB	6-1	246	1 Wisconsin	D7a-18	D7a-Jac-18	
55 McCray, Lerentee	LB	6-3	249	6 Florida	FA-Buf-17	FA-Den-13	
Onwuatu, James	LB	6-1	235	2 Notre Dame	W-SF-19	FA-LAC-17	
47 Ryan, Jake	LB	6-2	240	4 Michigan	FA-GB-19	D4-GB-15	
50 Smith, Telvin	LB	6-3	215	5 Florida State	D5a-14	D5a-Jac-14	
Wilson, Ramik	LB	6-2	238	4 Georgia	FA-LAR-19	D4-KC-15	
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
31 Borders, Breon	CB	6-0	189	1 Duke	FA-18	FA-Oak-17	
39 Brown, Cody	S	6-2	207	1 Arkansas State	FA-19	FA-Jac-19	
21 Bouye, A.J.	CB	6-0	191	6 UCF	FA-Hou-17	FA-Hou-13	
22 Davis, Cody	S	6-1	203	6 Texas Tech	FA-LAR-18	FA-LAR-13	
36 Harrison, Ronnie	S	6-2	207	1 Alabama	D3-18	D3-Jac-18	
25 Hayden, D.J.	CB	5-11	190	6 Houston	FA-Det-18	D1-Oak-13	
41 Herndon, Tire	CB	5-11	185	1 Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
43 Meeks, Quenton	CB	6-1	209	1 Stanford	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
20 Ramsey, Jalen	CB	6-1	208	3 Florida State	D1-16	D1-Jac-16	
38 Reavis, C.J.	S	6-0	198	1 Marshall	FA-18	FA-Jac-18	
26 Wilson, Jarrod	S	6-2	210	3 Michigan	FA-16	FA-Jac-16	
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
9 Cooke, Logan	P	6-5	230	1 Mississippi State	D7b-18	D7b-Jac-18	
49 Kuntz, Christian	LS	6-1	227	1 Duquesne	FA-18	FA-NE-17	
4 Lambo, Josh	K	6-0	215	4 Texas A&M	FA-17	FA-SD-15	
45 Overton, Matt	LS	6-1	243	7 Western Washington	FA-18	FA-Sea-10	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Marqise Lee	17	DJ Chark
WR	12	Dede Westbrook	84	Keelan Cole
WR	18	Chris Conley	16	C.J. Board
LT	74	Cam Robinson	72	Josh Wells
LG	68	Andrew Norwell	78	Parker Ehinger
C	65	Brandon Linder	69	Tyler Shatley
RG	60	A.J. Cann	69	Tyler Shatley
RT	75	Jawaan Taylor (R)	76	Will Richardson
TE	87	Geoff Swaim	89	Josh Oliver (R)
QB	7	Nick Foles	6	Cody Kessler
RB	27	Leonard Fournette	23	Alfred Blue

DEFENSE

DE	91	Yannick Ngakoue	41	Josh Allen (R)
DT	99	Marcell Dareus	95	Abry Jones
DT	90	Taven Bryan	54	Eli Ankou
DE	93	Calais Campbell	94	Dawuane Smoot
WLB	50	Telvin Smith		Quincy Williams (R)
MLB	44	Myles Jack	47	Jake Ryan
SLB	48	Leon Jacobs	55	Lerentee McCray
CB	20	Jalen Ramsey	25	D.J. Hayden
CB	21	A.J. Bouye	43	Quenton Meeks
FS	26	Jarrod Wilson	22	Cody Davis
SS	36	Ronnie Harrison	38	C.J. Reavis

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Josh Lambo	KR	29	Benny Cunningham
P	9	Logan Cooke	PR	12	Dede Westbrook

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
RB	Alfred Blue	Houston
WR	Chris Conley	Kansas City
RB	Benny Cunningham	Chicago
QB	Nick Foles	Philadelphia
OT	Cedric Ogbuehi	Cincinnati
RB	Thomas Rawls	Cincinnati
LB	Jake Ryan	Green Bay
TE	Geoff Swaim	Dallas

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
QB	Blake Bortles	L.A. Rams
FS	Tashaun Gipson	Houston
DT	Malik Jackson	Philadelphia
WR	Donte Moncrief	Pittsburgh
RT	Jermey Parnell	Free Agent
TE	Austin Seferian-Jenkins	New England
RB	T.J. Yeldon	Buffalo

SCOUTING THE JAGUARS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP JACKSONVILLE "The lesson that there is little carryover from one NFL season to the next was painfully learned in Jacksonville last year. ... Blake Bortles teased the organization for five years, but they finally let him go. ... Nick Foles caught lightning in a bottle with the Eagles and parlayed a great run into this enormous deal. The hope is that a reunion with new offensive coordinator John DeFilippo will be the answer for their entire offense. ... Unless Leonard Fournette gets back on track and their offensive line stays healthy, Foles is not good enough to carry this team as a stand-alone entity. ... Much will be expected from wide receiver DJ Chark, last year's second-round selection, and the tight end group is unproven at best. ... Calais Campbell continues to play at a high level, and edge rusher Yannick Ngakoue is one of the most underrated players in the league. ... They were gifted Josh Allen from Kentucky in the first round, and he only adds to the talent of this D. ... The retirement of Paul Posluszny was more significant than people thought; he was a glue guy. ... Jalen Ramsey went over the top with his off-field comments, but he is still a top-five corner, and A.J. Bouye was another example of paying A+ money for B+ ability in free agency. ... The reality is that this team's problems are from the neck up. It will be interesting to see if head coach Doug Marrone can regain control of the locker room with Tom Coughlin's support, because if he doesn't, it's much easier to replace the coaches than the players. ... In a really competitive division, the Jaguars have much to prove in a make-or-break season for Marrone."



Jaguars IN THE DRAFT

A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Josh Allen	DE	6-5	262	Kentucky
2.	Jawaan Taylor	OT	6-5	312	Florida
3.	Josh Oliver	TE	6-5	249	San Jose State
3.	Quincy Williams	LB	5-11	225	Murray State
5.	Ryquell Armstead	RB	5-11	220	Temple
6.	Gardner Minshew	QB	6-1	225	Washington State
7.	Dontavious Russell	DT	6-3	320	Auburn

Holding a top-10 pick for the 11th time in 12 years, the Jaguars set to work on several needs. Josh Allen allowed them to turn one eye toward the future while adding an immediate rotational pass rusher. Jawaan Taylor and Josh Oliver filled spots devoid of obvious starters. Taylor will slot in at right tackle, and Oliver is the team's top pass-catching tight end. Quincy Williams was an unexpected and relatively unknown selection, but the Jaguars are convinced he has starter characteristics. Ryquell Armstead will begin as a backup and could carve out an expanded role from there. Gardner Minshew and Dontavious Russell will need strong training camps to make the roster and could be practice squad options.

Outside the Huddle

WREAKING HAVOC The Jaguars did not live up to their "Sacksonville" nickname in 2018 — their 37 team sacks were tied for 22nd and 18 fewer than the previous season. However, defensive ends Calais Campbell and Yannick Ngakoue continued to pull their weight. Since the two joined forces in 2017, their 46.5 combined sacks are the most by any two teammates.

SPLASH BROTHER? Some people like to swim. Others like to meditate. Jaguars quarterback Nick Foles clears his mind by shooting hoops. Foles, a talented high school basketball player, made sure his new Jacksonville home included a "sport court." In fact, he declared it his top must-have. "Shooting baskets is therapeutic for me," Foles says. "It'll be the first time in my career that I have that."

SKID ROW How can the Jaguars avoid double-digit losses for the eighth time in nine years? Avoid the season-ruining losing streak. Last year, it was seven games. They've also had losing streaks of nine games (2016), six games (2014), eight games (2013) and seven games (2012).

HOME COOKING The Jaguars host Indianapolis in Week 17, the first time they will end the regular season at home since 2011. That could pay off if they are chasing a playoff spot late in the year. Since the Jaguars joined the NFL in 1995, they are 6-0 in Week 17 home games.

IRON MAN Concerns about a possible chronic knee problem pushed linebacker Myles Jack into the second round of the 2016 draft. Since then? Jack has

played 48 of 48 games and last season was the only Jaguars defensive player to stay on the field for all 1,025 snaps.

FAMILIAR FACE Doug Marrone raves about new offensive line coach George Warhop, though the two men have never worked on the same NFL staff. Their bond was formed when Warhop was the offensive coordinator of the London Monarchs in the World League of American Football in the early '90s — and Marrone played on his offensive line. "Doug was a heck of a player," Warhop says. "He would be the same kind of guy I'd look for today."

MVP, MVP Reigning NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes comes to TIAA Bank Field in Week 1, the second time in as many years the Jaguars will see the talented quarterback. In 2018, they were the only team to prevent Mahomes from throwing a touchdown pass in a game during the regular season. That didn't much matter; Kansas City won 30-14.

NAME GAME The Jaguars took Kentucky defensive end Josh Allen seventh overall. That made two straight years a player with that name was taken with that pick. In 2018, Wyoming quarterback Josh Allen went seventh overall to Buffalo.

CAJUN CONNECTION The Jaguars needed someone who could get the most out of running back Leonard Fournette, and they turned to longtime NFL assistant Terry Robiskie. Robiskie hasn't coached the position since the late '80s. But like Fournette, he is from New Orleans and played at LSU. The team is hopeful that the connection will translate to a more focused Fournette.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

1.24

The Jaguars averaged 1.24 points per offensive drive, second lowest in the NFL.

45.9

Jacksonville forced a punt on 45.9 percent of their defensive drives, third highest in the NFL.

34

Leonard Fournette and Carlos Hyde saw eight or more men in the box on over 34 percent of their carries, both top-five rates among NFL running backs.



Tennessee TITANS

AFC South Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Co-Chairmen, Board of Directors: Amy Adams Strunk, Susie Adams Smith
President/CEO: Steve Underwood
Executive VP/General Manager: Jon Robinson
VP of Football Administration: Vin Marino
Stadium: Nissan Stadium (69,143)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.titansonline.com
Tickets: 615-565-4200
Training Camp: Saint Thomas Sports Park (Nashville, Tenn.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Vabel
Record With Team: 9-7
Career Record: 9-7
Offensive Coordinator: Arthur Smith
Defensive Coordinator: Dean Pees
Special Teams: Craig Aukerman
Quarterbacks: Pat O'Hara
Running Backs: Tony Dews
Wide Receivers: Rob Moore
Tight Ends: Todd Downing
Offensive Line: Keith Carter
Defensive Line: Terrell Williams
Inside Linebackers: Tyrone McKenzie
Outside Linebackers: Shane Bowen
Secondary: Kerry Coombs

The 2019 season is a "put your money where your mouth is" campaign for the Tennessee Titans. The good news is that Nashville already cashed in as the host of NFL Draft weekend. So the year is off to a good start in Tennessee. Throwing a comparable party on the field and in the standings will be more challenging, however. It's AFC South title or sing for your supper this season in Music City.

The 2018 season started with Mike Vabel's seven-hour Week 1 head coaching debut in Miami and ended without an injured Marcus Mariota in a Week 17 playoff play-in against Indianapolis. In between those two losses, the Titans posted a 9-5 record and looked like a dangerous upstart team. Inconsistency and injuries, however, derailed a promising season and remain lingering question marks heading into 2019.

Vabel, 43, looks like a home run hire heading into his second season at the helm. The 6'4", 260-pound three-time Super Bowl champion linebacker warms up pregame with a blocking bag and shows no hesitation in-game as a sideline CEO. His last-minute two-point conversion call against the Chargers in London and fourth down decision at the goal line at Houston on MNF both failed but showed trust in process and personnel.

One-and-done offensive coordinator Matt LaFleur produced the 27th-ranked scoring offense (19.4 ppg) in his only season as an NFL play caller — having deferred to Sean McVay and Kyle Shanahan in his previous jobs. However, LaFleur, 39, was named Packers head coach this offseason, a hiring trend similar to Kliff Kingsbury, 39, failing upward to the Cardinals. Arthur Smith, 37, was promoted in-house from tight ends coach; the Memphis native has been with the team since 2011 and will be Mariota's fourth coordinator (and fifth play caller) in five seasons. Defensive coordinator Dean Pees, 69, boasts a Super Bowl pedigree and last year's third-ranked scoring defense (18.9 ppg).

OFFENSE Mariota (No. 2 overall pick in 2015) is already better than flat-out bust Jake Locker (No. 8 in 2011) and flame-out disappointment Vince Young (No. 3 in 2006). But the Heisman Hawaiian isn't quite a franchise QB a la Steve McNair (No. 3 in 1995). Last season was a referendum on Mariota. And the offseason resulted in trading a 2020 fourth-rounder and 2019 seventh-round pick for former Dolphins starter Ryan Tannehill (No. 8 in 2012) and a 2019 sixth-round pick. Lower Broadway also buzzed with rumors of drafting Mizzou's Drew Lock, who ultimately landed in Denver on Day 2. This is Marcus' money year, as he enters the fifth and final season of his rookie deal with a nine-figure future if he succeeds. No one questions Mariota's intangibles or leadership, but his accuracy and durability make this a coin toss make-or-break season for a QB who was not drafted during the regime of GM Jon Robinson and Vabel.

The majority of Derrick Henry's rushing production came in the final four games of last season — 585 of his 1,059 yards and 7-of-12 TDs coming against the Jaguars, Giants, Redskins and Colts. Henry should capitalize on his contract year, but consistency will determine his future residency in Nashville. Diminutive Dion Lewis was the featured back early on last year and posted 917 yards from scrimmage.

Take the good with the bad with left tackle Taylor Lewan. He's frustrating but elite. Right tackle Jack Conklin had his fifth-year option declined this offseason, an indictment on the first draft pick of Robinson's tenure in Tennessee. Interior O-line was

2019 Schedule

2018 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Sept. 15	Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Sept. 19	at Jacksonville (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (44)
Sept. 29	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Oct. 6	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Oct. 13	at Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Oct. 20	L.A. Chargers	4:05	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
Oct. 27	Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Nov. 3	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)
Nov. 10	Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
BYE							
Nov. 24	Jacksonville	4:05	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (44)
Dec. 1	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Dec. 8	at Oakland	4:25	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Dec. 15	Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (44)
Dec. 22	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Dec. 29	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (44)



DT JURRELL CASEY



2018 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 9	at Miami	L	20-27
Sept. 16	Houston	W	20-17
Sept. 23	at Jacksonville	W	9-6
Sept. 30	Philadelphia (ot)	W	26-23
Oct. 7	at Buffalo	L	12-13
Oct. 14	Baltimore	L	0-21
Oct. 21	at L.A. Chargers	L	19-20
Nov. 5	at Dallas	W	28-14
Nov. 11	New England	W	34-10
Nov. 18	at Indianapolis	L	10-38
Nov. 26	at Houston	L	17-34
Dec. 2	N.Y. Jets	W	26-22
Dec. 6	Jacksonville	W	30-9
Dec. 16	at N.Y. Giants	W	17-0
Dec. 22	Washington	W	25-16
Dec. 30	Indianapolis	L	17-33

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Marcus Mariota	331	228	2,528	11	8
Blaine Gabbert	101	61	626	4	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Derrick Henry	215	1,059	4.9	12	
Dion Lewis	155	517	3.3	1	
Marcus Mariota	64	357	5.6	2	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Corey Davis	65	891	13.7	4	
Taywan Taylor	37	466	12.6	1	
Dion Lewis	59	400	6.8	1	
Tajae Sharpe	26	316	12.2	2	
Jonnu Smith	20	258	12.9	3	

KICKING: Ryan Succop, 26-30 FGs, 28-31 PAT, 106 points

TACKLES: Wesley Woodyard, 113; Jayon Brown, 97

SACKS: Jurrell Casey, 7.0; Jayon Brown, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Kevin Byard, 4; Malcolm Butler, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	312.6	25	11
Rushing	126.7	6	3
Passing	185.9	29	14
Scoring	19.4	27	13
Third Down %	40.0	15	7
Punt Returns	8.8	14	11
Kick Returns	32.0	1	1
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	333.4	8	5
Rushing	116.4	18	8
Passing	216.9	6	4
Scoring	18.9	3	2
Interceptions	11	T23	T14
Sacks	39	T16	T6
Turnover Differential	-1	21	10

an issue in 2018 and could be once again. The Titans signed versatile guard Rodger Saffold — to a four-year, \$44 million deal that is essentially a two-year, \$23.5 million deal — and drafted guard Nate Davis in the third round. Ben Jones mans the pivot with a passion.

Third-year wideout Corey Davis and rookie second-rounder A.J. Brown both have a physical YAC style as well as big-play potential. Free agent slot receiver Adam Humphries is a “man of [his] word” and will play in New England South

rather than New England Proper, after being pursued by the Patriots after agreeing to join the Titans. Before their respective season-ending injuries, tight ends Delanie Walker (ankle) and Jonnu Smith (knee) were considered two of the best players on the team, period. Their returns will be huge for both the pass and run game.

DEFENSE The stop-unit starts with D-tackle Jurrell Casey, who is coming off his fourth consecutive Pro Bowl nod but also a strained MCL that forced him to miss the must-win season finale. But the biggest knee injury news is that of rookie first-rounder Jeffery Simmons, who was considered a potential top-10 pick before suffering a torn ACL during a pre-draft workout in February. If the 6'4", 301-pounder returns full strength, Tennessee will have one of the league's most talented D-line units on the frontline of a 3-4 scheme that includes DaQuan Jones, Austin Johnson, Matt Dickerson and Brent Urban in a stout, versatile rotation.

On the edge, serviceable duo Derrick Morgan and Brian Orakpo are gone. Five-time Pro Bowler and 37-year-old free agent Cameron Wake inked a three-year, \$23 million deal. But the Titans hope a pair of former second-round picks — Harold Landry and Kamalei Correa — are able to take huge strides forward as pass rushers. Landry showed flashes as a rookie but will need to be more than just a situational player as a sophomore. Veteran Wesley Woodyard is a metronome in the middle, while Rashaan Evans and Jayon Brown enter their second and third seasons with the type of splash-play potential the defense desperately needs.

The Titans are heavily invested at cornerback, with former high-priced free agents Malcolm Butler (signed for five years, \$61 million in 2018) and Logan Ryan (three years, \$30 million in 2017), as well as 2017 first-rounder Adoree' Jackson. Despite all the capital spent, Tennessee has been abused by the AFC South's premier pass catchers, Houston's DeAndre Hopkins (11 catches for 184 yards and TD vs. Titans in 2018) and Indianapolis' T.Y. Hilton (11 catches for 216 yards and two TDs). Butler and Ryan are on the decline, having spent their best years in New England. If Jackson's coverage technique catches up to his electric athleticism, he could be a breakout star. But the reality is, the Titans could field three Deion Sanders and still struggle at cornerback; if there is no pass rush up front, the back end will pay the price.

Center field safety Kevin Byard's INT total fell from eight in 2017 to four picks last year, but he might have had an even better all-around season and remains one of the game's most dynamic ballhawks. Strong safety Kenny Vaccaro and versatile slot-safety rookie Amani Hooker give Pees plenty of options for sub-packages, as does second-year special teams star Dane Cruikshank, who famously caught a 66-yard TD on a fake-punt pass from Byard last year.

SPECIALISTS Placekicker Ryan Succop and punter Brett Kern are two of the best in the business. The return game is seemingly in capable hands with Jackson. But his big-play potential is often overshadowed by debatable fielding decisions, and it's a fair question to ask whether he's too valuable as a corner to continue risking as a returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Titans are at a crossroads. This team has no glaring weakness and is talented enough to contend for not only the AFC South division crown but also the entire AFC. Once again, it's all on Mariota. Another trip to the playoffs — where Tennessee won at Kansas City two years ago — will probably be enough to get the band back together for 2020. It's now or never for the Mariota era in Music City.



DERRICK HENRY



2019 VETERAN

TITANS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8 Mariota, Marcus	QB	6-4	222	4	Oregon	D1-15	D1-Ten-15
17 Tannehill, Ryan	QB	6-4	207	7	Texas A&M	T-Mia-19	D1-Mia-12
5 Woodsides, Logan	QB	6-1	213	1	Toledo	FA-19	D7-Cin-18

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
39 Dawkins, Dalyn	RB	5-7	183	1	Colorado State	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
32 Fluellen, David	RB	5-11	224	2	Toledo	FA-15	FA-Phi-14
22 Henry, Derrick	RB	6-3	247	3	Alabama	D2c-16	D2c-Ten-16
33 Lewis, Dion	RB	5-8	195	7	Pittsburgh	FA-NE-18	D5-Phi-11
30 McNichols, Jeremy	RB	5-9	205	1	Boise State	FA-18	D5-TB-15

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
17 Batson, Cameron	WR	5-8	175	1	Texas Tech	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
84 Davis, Corey	WR	6-3	209	2	Western Michigan	D1a-17	D1a-Ten-17
86 Firkser, Anthony	TE	6-2	246	1	Harvard	FA-18	FA-NYJ-17
10 Humphries, Adam	WR	5-11	195	4	Clemson	FA-TB-19	FA-TB-15
19 Jennings, Darius	WR	5-10	180	2	Virginia	FA-17	FA-Cle-15
18 Lewis Jr., Roger	WR	6-0	203	3	Bowling Green	FA-18	FA-NYG-16
85 Pruitt, MyCole	TE	6-2	245	3	Southern Illinois	FA-18	D5-Min-15
14 Raymond, Kalif	WR	5-8	182	2	Holy Cross	FA-18	FA-Den-16
11 Ross, Devin	WR	5-9	192	1	Colorado	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
19 Sharpe, Tajae	WR	6-2	194	3	Massachusetts	D5a-16	D5a-Ten-16
81 Smith, Jonnu	TE	6-3	248	2	FIU	D3b-17	D3b-Ten-17
13 Taylor, Taywan	WR	5-11	203	2	Western Kentucky	D3a-17	D3a-Ten-17
88 Towbridge, Keith	TE	6-5	262	1	Louisville	FA-19	FA-Buf-17
82 Walker, Delanie	TE	6-2	248	13	Central Missouri	FA-SF-13	D6-SF-06
89 Wick, Cole	TE	6-6	257	2	Incarnate Word	FA-18	FA-Det-16

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
78 Conklin, Jack	T	6-6	308	3	Michigan State	D1-16	D1-Ten-16
75 Douglas, Jamil	G	6-4	309	2	Arizona State	FA-18	D4-Mia-15
60 Jones, Ben	C	6-3	308	7	Georgia	FA-Hou-16	D4-Hou-12
71 Kelly, Dennis	T/G	6-8	321	7	Purdue	T-Phi-16	D5-Phi-12
62 Levin, Corey	C/G	6-4	307	2	Chattanooga	D6-17	D6-Ten-17
77 Lewan, Taylor	T	6-7	309	5	Michigan	D1-14	D1-Ten-14
69 Marz, Tyler	T	6-7	316	2	Wisconsin	FA-16	FA-Ten-16
66 Pamphile, Kevin	G/T	6-5	315	5	Purdue	FA-TB-18	D5-TB-14
68 Pasztor, Austin	OL	6-7	305	6	Virginia	FA-18	FA-Min-12
72 Quessenberry, David	DL	6-5	310	1	San Jose State	FA-18	D6-Hou-13
76 Saffold III, Rodger	G	6-5	323	9	Indiana	FA-LAR-19	D2-LAR-10
61 Stinnie, Aaron	G	6-3	312	1	James Madison	FA-18	FA-Ten-18

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99 Casey, Jurrell	DT	6-1	305	8	USC	D3-11	D3-Ten-11
92 Dickerson, Matt	DE	6-5	292	1	UCLA	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
94 Johnson, Austin	DL	6-4	314	3	Penn State	D2b-16	D2b-Ten-16
90 Jones, DaQuan	DL	6-4	322	5	Penn State	D4a-14	D4a-Ten-14
93 Liner, Dee	DL	6-2	334	1	Arkansas State	FA-19	FA-KC-18
Urban, Brent	DE	6-7	300	5	Virginia	FA-Bal-19	D4a-Bal-14

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
53 Bates, Daren	LB	5-11	225	6	Auburn	FA-Oak-17	FA-LAR-13
55 Brown, Jayon	LB	6-0	226	2	UCLA	D5-17	D5-Ten-17
Bullough, Riley	LB	6-2	228	1	Michigan State	W-TB-19	FA-TB-17
44 Correa, Kamalei	OLB	6-3	241	3	Boise State	T-Bal-18	D2-Bal-16
54 Evans, Rashaan	LB	6-2	232	1	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Ten-18
56 Finch, Sharif	OLB	6-4	250	1	Temple	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
57 Harris, Nigel	LB	6-2	225	2	South Florida	FA-18	FA-LAC-17
58 Landry III, Harold	LB	6-2	252	1	Boston College	D2-18	D2-Ten-18
45 Lewis, LaTroy	OLB	6-3	255	1	Tennessee	FA-18	FA-Oak-17
57 President, Gimel	OLB	6-4	275	1	Illinois	W-Hou-18	FA-Hou-17
91 Wake, Cameron	OLB	6-3	263	10	Penn State	FA-Mia-19	FA-NYG-05
59 Woodyard, Wesley	LB	6-0	233	11	Kentucky	FA-Den-14	FA-Den-08

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21 Butler, Malcolm	CB	5-11	190	5	West Alabama	FA-NE-18	FA-NE-14
31 Byard, Kevin	S	5-11	212	3	Middle Tennessee	D3-16	D3-Ten-16
29 Cruikshank, Dane	DB	6-1	209	1	Arizona	D5-18	D5-Ten-18
20 Durden, Kenneth	CB	6-1	180	1	Youngstown State	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
25 Jackson, Adoree'	CB	5-11	185	2	USC	D1b-17	D1b-Ten-17
38 Jordan, Mike	DB	6-1	200	2	Missouri Western	FA-18	FA-LAR-16
46 Kalu, Joshua	DB	6-0	203	1	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
26 Ryan, Logan	CB	5-11	195	6	Rutgers	FA-NE-17	D3-NE-13
36 Sims, LeShaun	CB	6-0	203	3	Southern Utah	D5b-16	D5b-Ten-16
23 Smith, Tye	CB	6-0	195	3	Towson	FA-17	D5-Sea-15
24 Vaccaro, Kenny	S	6-0	214	6	Texas	FA-18	D1-NO-13
35 Webb, Damon	S	5-11	198	1	Ohio State	FA-18	FA-Ten-18

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Barnard, Austin	K/P	6-3	207	1	Samford	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
48 Brinkley, Beau	LS	6-4	260	7	Missouri	FA-12	FA-Ten-12
6 Kern, Brett	P	6-2	214	11	Toledo	W-Den-09	FA-Den-08
4 Succop, Ryan	K	6-2	218	10	South Carolina	FA-14	D7-KC-09

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	84	Corey Davis	19	Tajae Sharpe
WR	10	Adam Humphries	13	Taywan Taylor
WR		A.J. Brown (R)	15	Darius Jennings
LT	77	Taylor Lewan	68	Austin Pasztor
LG	76	Rodger Saffold	69	Tyler Marz
C	60	Ben Jones	62	Corey Levin
RG	66	Kevin Pamphile		Nate Davis (R)
RT	78	Jack Conklin	71	Dennis Kelly
TE	82	Delanie Walker	81	Jonnu Smith
QB	8	Marcus Mariota	17	Ryan Tannehill
RB	22	Derrick Henry	33	Dion Lewis

DEFENSE

DE	90	DaQuan Jones		Brent Urban
NT	94	Austin Johnson		Jeffery Simmons (R)
DT	99	Jurrell Casey	92	Matt Dickerson
OLB	91	Cameron Wake	44	Kamalei Correa
ILB	59	Wesley Woodyard	54	Rashaan Evans
ILB	55	Jayon Brown		David Long Jr. (R)
OLB	58	Harold Landry		D'Andre Walker (R)
CB	25	Adoree' Jackson	26	Logan Ryan
CB	21	Malcolm Butler	36	LeShaun Sims
SS	24	Kenny Vaccaro		Amani Hooker (R)
FS	31	Kevin Byard	29	Dane Cruikshank

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Ryan Succop	KR	15	Darius Jennings
P	6	Brett Kern	PR	25	Adoree' Jackson

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM	POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Adam Humphries	Tampa Bay	SS	Johnathan Cyprien	Free Agent
OG	Rodger Saffold	L.A. Rams	OLB	Derrick Morgan	Free Agent
QB	Ryan Tannehill	Miami	OLB	Brian Orakpo	Retired
OLB	Cameron Wake	Miami	OG	Quinton Spain	Buffalo

KEY LOSSES -

SCOUTING THE TITANS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TENNESSEE "It took former OC Matt LaFleur forever to recognize that Derrick Henry is their most dominant player; expect Arthur Smith to feature him out of the gate. ... QB Marcus Mariota will be working with his fourth coordinator in five seasons. He is maddeningly conservative and inaccurate at times. ... Corey Davis looks like a rising star. The signing of Adam Humphries along with the healthy return of both Delanie Walker and Jonnu Smith should improve their 29th-ranked passing game. ... Guard Rodger Saffold was added in free agency, and he should solidify the interior of the OL, while right tackle Jack Conklin will be back to full health. ... On defense, the Titans finished third in points allowed, and that's indicative of Mike Vrabel's New England roots. ... Defensive tackle Jurrell Casey racked up seven sacks; is super quick at the point of attack and has the agility to chase plays down the line. ... They drafted a top-10 talent in Jeffery Simmons at pick No. 19 but will have to wait on his ACL tear to heal. ... Edge pass rush is a major concern, so Cameron Wake was signed from the Dolphins. Harold Landry must increase his 4.5 sacks. ... Last year's first-round selection, Rashaan Evans, only started seven games, so he needs a better 'sophomore' season. ... Pro personnel people appreciate Wesley Woodyard, but virtually no one else realizes how productive he has been during his career. ... Kevin Byard is their most notable defensive player because of his ability to impact the run and pass games; he is extremely versatile. ... Anything less than 10 wins in 2019 will be a huge step backwards for this southern version of the Patriots."



B+

Titans IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Jeffery Simmons	DT	6-4	301	Mississippi State
2.	A.J. Brown	WR	6-0	226	Ole Miss
3.	Nate Davis	G	6-3	316	Charlotte
4.	Amani Hooker	S	5-11	210	Iowa
5.	D'Andre Walker	OLB	6-2	251	Georgia
6.	David Long Jr.	ILB	5-11	225	West Virginia

Jeffery Simmons' February knee injury could make 2019 a redshirt season for the 300-pounder with Pro Bowl upside. The timeline for Simmons' return will go a long way toward determining the ceiling for this year's Titans. A.J. Brown is an exciting option at wideout and will be given every opportunity to earn a sizable role in the passing game. Brown is a sharp route runner with a knack for getting open. He's also built like a running back and tough to take down once he has the ball in his hands. Nate Davis will likely see the field whether he's ready or not, due to the Titans' lack of depth on the interior O-line. Amani Hooker has shown big-play ability and will provide flexibility in the secondary right away. D'Andre Walker is a swing at the fences for a pass rusher on the edge, arguably the team's weakest spot. Although not as productive as expected at Georgia, Walker could be a late-round steal if he puts it all together at the next level.



Outside the Huddle

DRAFT-VILLE Nashville's turn at hosting the NFL Draft was a huge success, with a reported record crowd of over 600,000 attending the three-day party that included an outdoor stage and concerts by country music stars Dierks Bentley and Tim McGraw.

UN-LUCK-Y No team in NFL history has a worse record against a QB than do the Titans vs. the Colts' Andrew Luck. Tennessee is 0-11 against Luck, following last year's 38-10 win-and-you're-in Week 17 defeat. The previous worst mark was the Patriots' 0-10 record vs. Broncos Hall of Famer John Elway.

STOP BOOING? The Titans' recent struggles against the Colts are not limited to just Luck — a fact Indianapolis legend Reggie Wayne was all too happy to bring up when he took the stage during Day 2 of the NFL Draft. "I know you're not booing," Wayne said when he walked onto the stage to announce the first pick of the night for the Colts. "C'mon, Tennessee. Y'all played the Colts 20 times in 10 years and you won three games. Stop it! Stop it!"

EDDIE! EDDIE! Titans legend and all-time leading rusher Eddie George made the most of his time in front of the downtown Nashville crowd at the NFL Draft. Wearing a No. 9 Steve McNair jersey, George accompanied the family of fallen Navy Lt. William Gilbert, from Medina, Tenn., to announce the selection of Ole Miss receiver A.J. Brown.

1K WIDEOUT The Titans drafted Brown in the second round (No. 51 overall) to add him to a group that includes 2017 first-rounder Corey Davis, fellow third-year pro Taywan Taylor and free agent

signee Adam Humphries. The challenge for this group? Give the team its first 1,000-yard wide receiver since Kendall Wright's 1,079 yards in 2013. Delanie Walker produced 1,088 receiving yards in 2015, but he's a tight end and is coming back from a serious ankle injury in what will be his age-35 season.

CJIDAY Retired running back Chris Johnson — the artist formerly known as "CJ2K" after becoming the sixth player in NFL history to rush for 2,000 yards in a single season in 2010 — signed a one-day contract in late April to retire with the Titans. Johnson rushed for 7,965 of his 9,651 career yards from 2008-13 with the Titans, before ending his career with less exciting stops with the Jets (2014) and Cardinals (2015-17).

FEDEX GROUND New offensive coordinator Arthur Smith is a Memphis native who has been with the Titans since 2011. It could even be said he worked his way up from the bottom, starting as a quality control coach. Smith, however, is also the son of FedEx founder Fred Smith, a co-owner of the Washington Redskins worth a reported \$5.4 billion. Expect plenty of FedEx Ground jokes if Smith's offense is able to utilize Derrick Henry.

NOT SO FUNNY BONE Last season, Marcus Mariota lost feeling in his throwing hand following a hit on his right elbow in the season opener in Miami in what was initially described as a "funny bone" injury. The potential for future nerve damage was a contributing factor in Mariota being shut down prior to a Week 17 matchup with Indianapolis. No surgery was needed this offseason, and Mariota is expected to be at full strength heading into the season.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	2
2015	3
2016	9
2017	9
2018	9

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

26.99

The Titans had the third-best starting field position after kick-offs, averaging the 26.99-yard line.

18.3

Tennessee allowed touchdowns on just 18.3 percent of its defensive drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

10.2

The Titans finished fifth-from-last in Adjusted Sack Rate, allowing a sack to the defense on 10.2 percent of their offensive drop-backs.



Denver BRONCOS

AFC West Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Pat Bowlen
President/CEO: Joe Ellis
President of Football Operations/GM: John Elway
Director of Player Personnel: Matt Russell
Stadium: Broncos Stadium at Mile High (76,125)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.denverbroncos.com
Tickets: 720-258-3333
Training Camp: UCHHealth Training Center (Englewood, Colo.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Vic Fangio
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Offensive Coordinator: Rich Scangarello
Defensive Coordinator: Ed Donatell
Special Teams Coordinator: Tom McMahon
Quarterbacks: T.C. McCartney
Running Backs: Curtis Modkins
Wide Receivers: Zach Azzanni
Tight Ends: Wade Harman
Offensive Line: Mike Munchak
Defensive Line: Bill Kollar
Linebackers: Reggie Herring
Outside Linebackers: Brandon Staley
Defensive Backs: Renaldo Hill

Entering the 2018 season, the Broncos figured the worst was behind them. They signed a new quarterback, believing a fresh leader and a second season for the head coach would leave despair in the rear-view mirror. Then they pulled out a shovel and dug up bones for a new rock bottom. Now, following back-to-back losing seasons for the first time since 1972, the Broncos have begun their latest makeover.

Optimism centers on new coach Vic Fangio and quarterback Joe Flacco, who replaces Case Keenum after one forgettable season. For those counting at home, Denver boasts its third coach and fifth quarterback since Peyton Manning retired. Fangio brings an "adult-in-the-room" presence and attention to detail. He will look to enhance a defense that perked up a year ago but was too often torched on the ground and on third down. The offense remains an issue, leaving the onus on first-time coordinator Rich Scangarello to breathe life into a group that has sabotaged the past three seasons.

OFFENSE Scangarello brings a fresh set of eyes and intriguing résumé as the Broncos attempt to revive an offense that ranked 24th in scoring (20.6 ppg), 19th in passing (230.9 ypg) and red zone percentage (56.8) and 28th in third down conversions (33.3 percent). Scangarello arrives in Denver after two seasons as the quarterbacks coach in San Francisco. The expectation remains an offense with an old-school base along with a splash of college creativity in space and in the passing game.

At 34, Flacco insists he's in his prime. He is durable, having started 16 games in nine of the last 11 seasons, but his numbers over the past four years have been mediocre: 24-27 record with 64 touchdowns and 46 interceptions.

The Broncos addressed the tight end position with their first pick in the draft, believing Noah Fant can provide a vertical threat missing since Julius Thomas left after the 2014 season. A former basketball player with good body control, Fant is a walking mismatch. He is a red zone threat; anything under six touchdowns will be a disappointment.

Flacco possesses a single proven target in veteran Emmanuel Sanders, who is returning from Achilles surgery. Sanders was on pace for nearly 1,200 yards and seven scores before injuring his leg after the 12th game. A healthy Sanders remains critical for Flacco to take chances down the field. Second-year pro Courtland Sutton produced 704 receiving yards, fourth most by a rookie in team history.

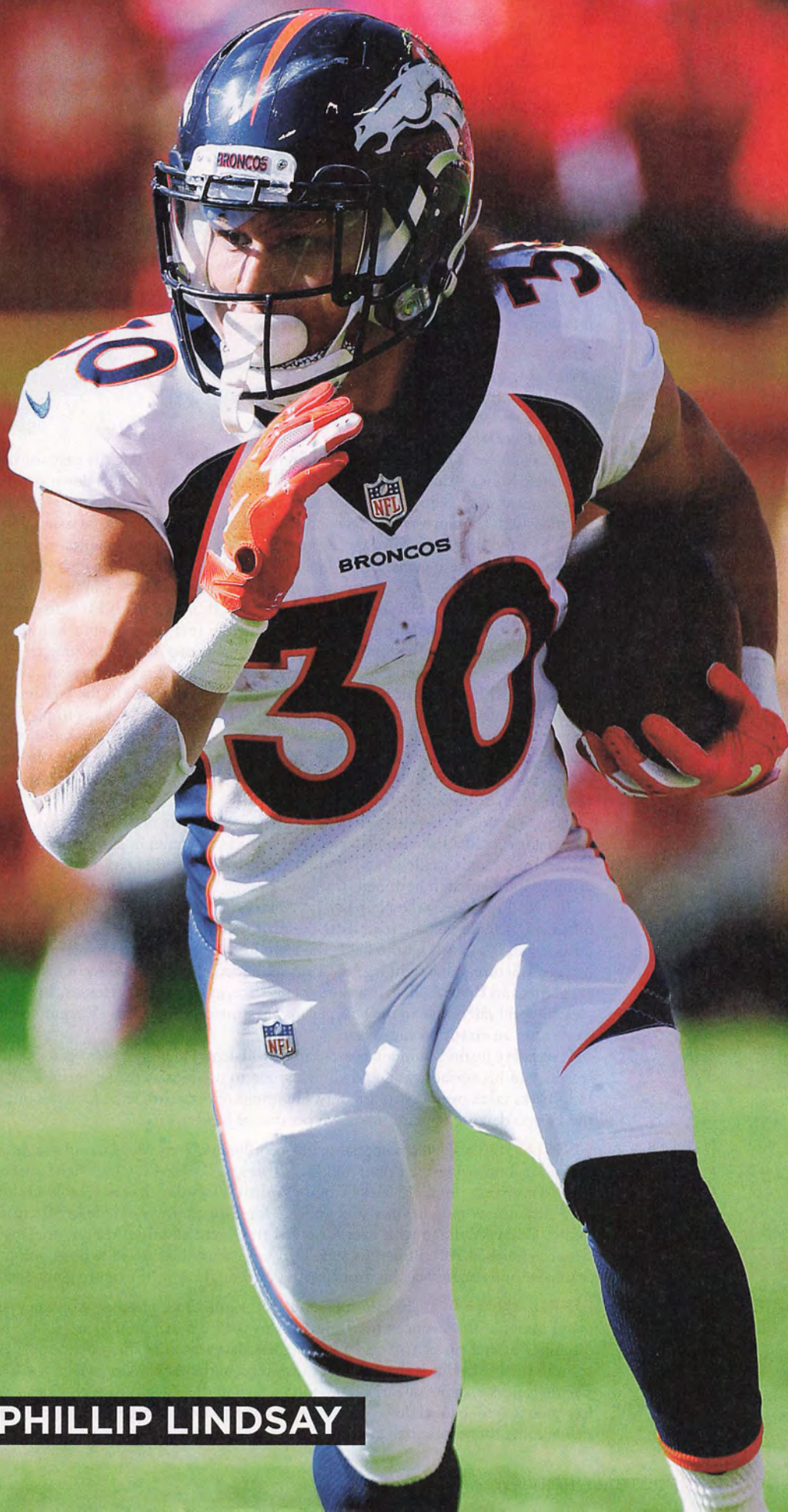
Running back Phillip Lindsay became the first undrafted offensive rookie to make the Pro Bowl, collecting 1,037 rushing yards and 10 total touchdowns. Lindsay provides energy and uncommon acceleration through the line of scrimmage that allows him to bounce runs outside. Lindsay will be featured with Scangarello, but the Broncos believe he can be

even more effective in a lightning and thunder combination with Royce Freeman, a bruiser whose rookie year left him unsatisfied because of an ankle issue.

For Flacco to work and the ground game to flourish — it ranked 12th at 119.2 yards per game — the line must blossom. Enter Mike Munchak, an underrated offseason addition. The Hall of Fame player and respected teacher will tutor an athletic group. Can he work his magic, or will he end up with an island of misfit toys? Adding Ja'Wuan James — the Broncos gave him \$32 million guaranteed — represents an upgrade at right tackle because he's predictable and serviceable in run and pass blocking

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 9	at Oakland (Mon.)	10:20	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)	
Sept. 15	Chicago	4:25	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)	
Sept. 22	at Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)	
Sept. 29	Jacksonville	4:25	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)	
Oct. 6	at L.A. Chargers	4:05	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)	
Oct. 13	Tennessee	4:25	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	
Oct. 17	Kansas City (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)	
Oct. 27	at Indianapolis	4:25	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Nov. 3	Cleveland	4:25	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
BYE								
Nov. 17	at Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)	
Nov. 24	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)	
Dec. 1	L.A. Chargers	4:25	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)	
Dec. 8	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4)	
Dec. 15	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)	
Dec. 21/22	Detroit	TBD	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)	
Dec. 29	Oakland	4:25	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)	



RB **PHILLIP LINDSAY**



2018 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 9	Seattle	W	27-24
Sept. 16	Oakland	W	20-19
Sept. 23	at Baltimore	L	14-27
Oct. 1	Kansas City	L	23-27
Oct. 7	at N.Y. Jets	L	16-34
Oct. 14	L.A. Rams	L	20-23
Oct. 18	at Arizona	W	45-10
Oct. 28	at Kansas City	L	23-30
Nov. 4	Houston	L	17-19
Nov. 18	at L.A. Chargers	W	23-22
Nov. 25	Pittsburgh	W	24-17
Dec. 2	at Cincinnati	W	24-10
Dec. 9	at San Francisco	L	14-20
Dec. 15	Cleveland	L	16-17
Dec. 24	at Oakland	L	14-27
Dec. 30	L.A. Chargers	L	9-23

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Case Keenum	586	365	3,890	18	15
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Phillip Lindsay	192	1,037	5.4	9	
Royce Freeman	130	521	4.0	5	
Devontae Booker	34	183	5.4	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Emmanuel Sanders	71	868	12.2	4	
Courtland Sutton	42	704	16.8	4	
Demaryius Thomas	36	402	11.2	3	
Tim Patrick	23	315	13.7	1	
Jeff Heuerman	31	281	9.1	2	
Devontae Booker	38	275	7.2	0	

KICKING: Brandon McManus, 20-25 FGs, 35-35 PAT, 95 points

TACKLES: Todd Davis, 114; Justin Simmons, 97

SACKS: Von Miller, 14.5; Bradley Chubb, 12.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Chris Harris, 3; Justin Simmons, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	350.1	19	9
Rushing	119.2	12	6
Passing	230.9	19	9
Scoring	20.6	24	11
Third Down %	33.3	28	13
Punt Returns	4.4	32	16
Kick Returns	20.1	T27	T13

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	365.1	22	10
Rushing	119.6	21	10
Passing	245.6	20	9
Scoring	21.8	13	8
Interceptions	17	T5	T3
Sacks	44	T8	3
Turnover Differential	+7	T8	T4

sets. The Broncos lost center Matt Paradis, meaning Connor McGovern has to accelerate his learning curve; he struggled in the final month of a year ago making pre-snap adjustments. Guard Ron Leary needs to show he can regain his form after knee and Achilles injuries. Munchak's biggest project is turning left tackle Garrett Bolles into an effective pass blocker.

DEFENSE The defense netted 11 more sacks and 11 additional takeaways over the previous season, and it mattered little. Why? The Broncos allowed 119.6 yards per game on the ground — making it easy for opponents to protect leads — and struggled to get off the field, allowing third down conversions at a 39 percent clip. There are a number of reasons, including stubbornness in using man coverage with an injury-ravaged secondary, but Fangio should fix those issues. He oversaw the NFL's top defense in Chicago, espousing a "death by inches" mantra where micro focus can lead to macro gains. Bears linebacker Khalil Mack calls him an "evil genius." The brilliance lies in the simplicity. Like previous Broncos boss Wade Phillips, Fangio creates schemes that allow his players to play fast. Fangio's Bears led the NFL with 36 takeaways.

Coordinating the defense from field level for the first time, Fangio will rely more on zone coverage, and he has proven adept at using corner blitzes to squelch drives. He says tackling is non-negotiable, a welcomed development for Broncos fans after Denver allowed an NFL record for rushing yards in back-to-back losses to the Jets and Rams.

All-Pro outside linebacker Von Miller anchors the group. He plans to play heavier — up from 238 to 248 — as he eyes a 20-sack season with the ability to shed blockers more quickly. Fangio believes Miller can be more effective if lined up creatively, sometimes employing him and Bradley Chubb on the same side. Chubb led all rookies with 12 sacks despite often dropping into coverage.

Denver figures to stop the run better with the emergence of Shelby Harris, a role player who made Domata Peko expendable; Derek Wolfe, a veteran in possibly his last season in Denver; and rookie tackle Dre'Mont Jones. Linebackers Todd Davis and Josey Jewell excel at stuffing the run, but both had issues in coverage against tight ends.

The No Fly Zone is the New Fly Zone. If cornerback Chris Harris Jr. returns after an offseason of trade talk, he represents the team's second-best player. He can play slot and outside and is a coach on the field. The team lost the final four games after he suffered a hairline fracture in his right leg. The Broncos added cornerback Kareem Jackson, a physical player, and Bryce Callahan, a slot coverage ace, in free agency. Jackson, however, might play a hybrid safety role in the box, placing pressure on corner Isaac Yiadom to elevate his game after an erratic rookie season.

Free safety Justin Simmons boasts Pro Bowl talent. He played every defensive snap last season, and his versatility should allow Fangio to use him as corner in some alignments. Will Parks takes over at strong safety. He brings effort, attitude and energy, but his fit in the Fangio defense remains unknown because of Jackson's role.

SPECIALISTS Veteran special teams coordinator Tom McMahon brought sanity to the group, improving their punt and kick coverage. Kicker Brandon McManus remained solid, converting on all 18 kicks from less than 50 yards. However, he is no longer the long-distance weapon he once was, going 2-for-7 on attempts of at least 50 yards. Rookie punter Colby Wadman took over for failed free agent addition Marquette King, but the Broncos finished 28th in net average. Denver's return jobs are wide open going into the season — and should be. The Broncos struggled mightily in the return game in 2018.

FINAL ANALYSIS Fangio arrives at the right time, bringing normalcy after two awful seasons. The Broncos need him to win with his matchup game plans and added discipline after Denver frittered away victories last season as the second-most penalized team in the NFL. But is that enough to contend in the AFC West, where the Chiefs and Chargers possess more talent? Hopes for a return to the playoffs lie with Flacco. Anything less than a 2-to-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio from Flacco, and rookie Drew Lock will become the team's sixth starting quarterback since Manning retired.



VON MILLER



2019 VETERAN BRONCOS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Flacco, Joe	QB	6-6	245	11	Delaware			T-Bal-19	D1-Bal-08
9	Hogan, Kevin	QB	6-3	218	3	Stanford			W-Was-18	D5-KC-16
RUNNING BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
23	Booker, Devontae	RB	5-11	219	3	Utah			D4-16	D4-Den-16
28	Freeman, Royce	RB	6-0	238	1	Oregon			D3a-18	D3a-Den-18
32	Janovich, Andy	FB	6-1	238	3	Nebraska			D6a-16	D6a-Den-16
30	Lindsay, Phillip	RB	5-8	190	1	Colorado			FA-18	FA-Den-18
33	Muhammad, Khalfani	RB	5-7	174	2	California			FA-18	D7-Ten-17
RECEIVERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
19	Brown, Fred	WR	6-1	196	1	Mississippi State			FA-18	FA-Ind-17
13	Burbridge, Aaron	WR	6-1	208	1	Michigan State			FA-19	D6-SF-16
80	Butt, Jake	TE	6-6	250	2	Michigan			D5a-17	D5a-Den-17
11	Cracraft, River	WR	6-0	198	1	Washington State			FA-17	FA-Den-17
84	Fumagalli, Troy	TE	6-6	248	1	Wisconsin			D5-18	D5-Den-18
17	Hamilton, DaeSean	WR	6-1	206	1	Penn State			D4b-18	D4b-Den-18
85	Hemingway, Temarrick	TE	6-5	246	3	South Carolina St.			FA-18	D6-LAR-16
82	Heuerman, Jeff	TE	6-5	255	4	Ohio State			D3-15	D3-Den-15
81	Patrick, Tim	WR	6-4	212	1	Utah			FA-17	FA-Bal-17
10	Sanders, Emmanuel	WR	5-11	180	9	SMU			FA-Pit-14	D3-Pit-10
14	Sutton, Courtland	WR	6-4	216	1	SMU			D2-18	D2-Den-18
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
67	Barclay, Don	G/T	6-4	305	5	West Virginia			FA-19	FA-GB-12
72	Bolles, Garrett	T	6-5	297	2	Utah			D1-17	D1-Den-17
	Brendel, Jake	C	6-4	299	3	UCLA			FA-Mia-19	FA-Dal-16
74	Falah, Nico	G/C	6-4	301	1	USC			FA-18	FA-Ten-18
70	James, Ja'Wuan	T	6-6	312	5	Tennessee			FA-Mia-19	D1-Mia-14
77	Jones, Sam	G/C	6-5	290	1	Arizona State			D6a-18	D6a-Den-18
65	Leary, Ron	G	6-3	320	7	Memphis			FA-Dal-17	FA-Dal-12
60	McGovern, Connor	G/C	6-4	306	3	Missouri			D5-16	D5-Den-16
	Rodgers, Jake	T	6-6	320	1	Eastern Washington			FA-19	D7-Atl-15
71	Schlottmann, Austin	G/C	6-6	300	1	TCU			FA-18	FA-Den-18
68	Wilkinson, Elijah	G/T	6-6	329	2	Massachusetts			FA-17	FA-Den-17
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
99	Gotsis, Adam	DE	6-4	287	3	Georgia Tech			D2-16	D2-Den-16
96	Harris, Shelby	NT	6-3	300	4	Illinois State			FA-17	D7-Oak-14
92	Kerr, Zach	DE	6-2	334	5	Delaware			FA-Ind-17	FA-Ind-14
97	Lyons, Caushaud	DL	6-4	310	3	Tusculum			FA-18	FA-TB-15
	Purcell, Mike	NT	6-3	328	3	Wyoming			FA-19	FA-SF-13
57	Walker, DeMarcus	DE	6-4	280	2	Florida State			D2-17	D2-Den-17
	Winn, Billy	DL	6-4	300	5	Boise State			FA-19	D6-Cle-12
95	Wolfe, Derek	DE	6-5	285	7	Cincinnati			D2a-12	D2a-Den-12
LINEBACKERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
40	Bierria, Keishawn	ILB	6-1	223	1	Washington			D6b-18	D6b-Den-18
55	Chubb, Bradley	OLB	6-4	275	1	NC State			D1-18	D1-Den-18
51	Davis, Todd	ILB	6-1	230	5	Sacramento State			W-NO-14	FA-NO-14
46	Holland, Jeff	OLB	6-2	249	1	Auburn			FA-18	FA-Den-18
47	Jewell, Josey	ILB	6-2	236	1	Iowa			D4a-18	D4a-Den-18
45	Johnson, Alexander	ILB	6-2	255	1	Tennessee			FA-18	FA-Den-18
43	Jones, Joseph	ILB	6-0	231	2	Northwestern			FA-17	FA-Dal-17
58	Miller, Von	OLB	6-3	248	8	Texas A&M			D1-11	D1-Den-11
50	Wallace, Aaron	LB	6-2	242	3	UCLA			FA-18	D7-Ten-16
	Watson, Dekoda	LB	6-2	245	9	Florida State			T-SF-19	D7-TB-10
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
26	Bausby, De'Vante	CB	6-2	190	2	Pittsburg State			FA-19	FA-KC-15
29	Callahan, Bryce	CB	5-9	188	4	Rice			FA-Chi-19	FA-Chi-15
20	Carter, Jamal	S	6-1	215	2	Miami			FA-17	FA-Den-17
21	Cravens, Su'a	S	6-1	224	3	USC			T-Was-18	D2-Was-16
25	Harris Jr., Chris	CB	5-10	199	8	Kansas			FA-11	FA-Den-11
22	Jackson, Kareem	S	5-10	183	9	Alabama			FA-Hou-19	D1-Hou-10
	Johnson, Trey	CB	5-11	170	1	Villanova			FA-19	FA-Pit-18
27	Langley, Brendan	CB	6-0	199	2	Lamar			D3b-17	D3b-Den-17
36	Marshall, Trey	S	6-0	207	1	Florida State			FA-18	FA-Den-18
34	Parks, Will	S	6-1	194	3	Arizona			D6b-16	D6b-Den-16
38	Richardson, Horace	CB	6-0	190	1	SMU			FA-18	FA-Min-17
31	Simmons, Justin	S	6-2	202	3	Boston College			D3-16	D3-Den-16
37	Stephens, Linden	CB	6-0	193	1	Cincinnati			FA-18	FA-NO-18
35	Thomas, Dymonte	S	6-2	199	2	Michigan			FA-17	FA-Den-17
38	Thomas, Shamarko	S	5-9	205	6	Syracuse			FA-19	D4-Pit-13
41	Yiadom, Isaac	CB	6-1	190	1	Boston College			D3b-18	D3b-Den-18
SPECIALISTS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
	Bertolet, Taylor	K	5-9	174	1	Texas A&M			FA-19	FA-LAR-16
42	Kreiter, Casey	LS	6-1	250	3	Iowa			FA-16	FA-Dal-14
8	McManus, Brandon	K	6-3	201	5	Temple			T-NYG-14	FA-Ind-13
3	Wadman, Colby	P	6-1	213	1	UC Davis			FA-18	FA-Oak-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	14	Courtland Sutton	11	River Cracraft
WR	10	Emmanuel Sanders	17	DaeSean Hamilton
LT	72	Garrett Bolles		Jake Rodgers
LG	65	Ron Leary	68	Elijah Wilkinson
C	60	Connor McGovern	77	Sam Jones
RG		Dalton Risner (R)	77	Sam Jones
RT	70	Ja'Wuan James		Dalton Risner (R)
TE	87	Noah Fant (R)	82	Jeff Heuerman
QB	5	Joe Flacco		Drew Lock (R)
RB	30	Phillip Lindsay	28	Royce Freeman
FB	32	Andy Janovich		

DEFENSE

DE	95	Derek Wolfe	92	Zach Kerr
NT	96	Shelby Harris		Dre'Mont Jones (R)
DE	99	Adam Gotsis	57	DeMarcus Walker
OLB	58	Von Miller	50	Aaron Wallace
ILB	47	Josey Jewell	43	Joe Jones
ILB	51	Todd Davis	40	Keishawn Bierria
OLB	55	Bradley Chubb		Justin Hollins (R)
CB	22	Kareem Jackson	41	Isaac Yladiom
CB	25	Chris Harris Jr.	26	De'Vante Bausby
SS	34	Will Parks	20	Jamal Carter
FS	31	Justin Simmons	21	Su'a Cravens

SPECIALISTS

K	8	Brandon McManus	PR	11	River Cracraft
P	3	Colby Wadman	KR	23	Devontae Booker

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
CB	Bryce Callahan	Chicago
QB	Joe Flacco	Baltimore
CB	Kareem Jackson	Houston
RT	Ja'Wuan James	Miami
OLB	Dekoda Watson	San Francisco

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
OG	Max Garcia	Arizona
LB	Brandon Marshall	Oakland
C	Matt Paradis	Carolina
DT	Domata Peko	Free Agent
CB	Bradley Roby	Houston
OT	Billy Turner	Green Bay

SCOUTING THE BRONCOS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DENVER "With all due respect to John Elway as a Hall of Fame player, he has been below average as a GM. No other executive would be allowed to rifle through four coaches and five quarterbacks in nine seasons. Now, it's Vic Fangio and Joe Flacco's turn to try and lead the Broncos back to the playoffs. ... Highly respected across the league, Fangio should elevate their defense, and he has the tools in place to get that done. ... Von Miller and Bradley Chubb should dominate in his hybrid 3-4 scheme. ... They combined last year for 26.5 sacks and didn't play all that often with a lead. ... Todd Davis is a consummate pro and underappreciated; he led them with 114 tackles in 2018. ... In the back end, they lost Bradley Roby in free agency to the Texans but signed Kareem Jackson and Bryce Callahan to help in coverage. ... Most of the questions are on offense. ... Elway traded for Flacco, and he has been dead average since his Super Bowl run in 2012. Without an airtight OL, I cannot imagine him being all that effective. ... Phillip Lindsay was an amazing local find for them. He rushed for 1,037 yards and proved to his doubters that he could run inside and catch the football (35 receptions). Royce Freeman and Devontae Booker form a nice backfield-by-committee. ... Courtland Sutton has big-play potential, and he flashed as a rookie with 42 catches for a 16.8-yard average. ... Not sure about the OL. Matt Paradis signed with Carolina and none of their other linemen are in the top half of the league. ... While their motivation and strategy will be better under Fangio, I don't see this team improving their 6-10 record."



Broncos IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Noah Fant	TE	6-4	249	Iowa
2.	Dalton Risner	G/T	6-5	312	Kansas State
2.	Drew Lock	QB	6-4	228	Missouri
3.	Dre'Mont Jones	DL	6-3	281	Ohio State
5	Justin Hollins	LB	6-5	248	Oregon
6.	Juwann Winfree	WR	6-3	215	Colorado

The Broncos continued a trend in the draft, selecting four collegiate captains after selecting eight in 2018. The Broncos passed on linebacker Devin Bush, moving back to the 20th pick to snare Noah Fant while acquiring a draft pick that they then used to trade up to grab Drew Lock with pick No. 42. Fant is expected to provide a vertical threat at the tight end position, the first for Denver since Julius Thomas left in free agency after the 2014 season. Dalton Risner should start immediately at right guard, but he can play center or tackle. Dre'Mont Jones will be a rotational player. The success of the class hinges on Lock. If he becomes the quarterback of the future, Denver will have cost certainty, and perhaps for the first time since Peyton Manning retired, stability at the most important position.

Outside the Huddle

GOOD LUCK CHARM Broncos coach Vic Fangio loves baseball. And he represents a good luck charm for the cities where he coached. While Fangio served as the 49ers defensive coordinator, the San Francisco Giants won three World Series. Then, during his time with the Chicago Bears, the Chicago Cubs won their first title in 108 years, besting Cleveland. So, Fangio, a good friend of Cubs manager Joe Maddon, acknowledges that the Colorado Rockies should be smiling. "I'd be happy if I were them [Rockies]," Fangio says. "The Cubs broke a jinx when I got to town. The Giants in San Francisco never won anything and then they won three out of the five years I was there. Things might be looking up for the Rockies."

PHIL IT UP Forget a chip — undrafted rookie Phillip Lindsay arrived in Denver with the entire bag of Doritos on his shoulder. Upset that the Broncos didn't draft him, Lindsay won the starting running back job. His 1,037 rushing yards were second most for an undrafted rookie; he became the first undrafted offensive rookie to make the Pro Bowl; and he averaged 7.0 yards per rush for three straight games, the first rookie to accomplish the feat since Jerome Bettis in 1993.

COWBOY UP Broncos second-round pick Dalton Risner grew up in the rural town of Wiggins, Colo. He loved the Broncos but wanted to be a cowboy. He grew up riding bulls. "That was the dream. But I got too big," Risner says. He never lost his Western vibe. Risner donned size-18 cowboy boots to his introductory press conference. "These are my work boots," he says.

WORTH THE WEIGHT All-Pro outside linebacker Von Miller spent more training time in Denver this offseason. He wanted to have a regular workout schedule as he puts on weight. He hopes to play at roughly 245 pounds, up about eight over last season. He believes a 20-sack season is possible, and he wants more strength to shed blockers without losing any speed.

NO AVERAGE JOE Quarterback Joe Flacco believes he is still in his prime at age 34. He sees the Broncos offense as a fit for his skill set. It doesn't hurt that he produced one of the most memorable victories of his career in Denver, knocking the Broncos out of the 2012 playoffs. "Sorry about that," Flacco says to the fans. Flacco's 10 postseason victories rank third among active quarterbacks behind Tom Brady and Ben Roethlisberger.

ATHLETIC FAMILY The Broncos made free agent right tackle Ja'Wuan James the highest-paid right tackle in history with a four-year, \$51 million deal with \$32 million guaranteed. And he isn't the most accomplished athlete in his family. His wife Rainey Gaffin, a University of Tennessee star like James, earned All-America honors twice in softball. She finished with 33 wins as a pitcher and a .334 average as a hitter. "I'd have to say she's better," James says.

HELLO, ROOKIE When the Broncos signed defensive back Kareem Jackson, he shared an interesting connection to Denver. Last season, Jackson provided Lindsay with his welcome-to-the-NFL moment, crushing him with a violent hit. "I met him when I got here. We are good. It's all respect," Jackson says.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	12	🏆
2015	12	🏆
2016	9	
2017	5	
2018	6	

🏆 Playoffs 🏆 Won Super Bowl

NUMBERS TO KNOW

26.76

The Broncos were the second-fastest offense in the NFL, averaging a play every 26.76 seconds.

5:29

Denver averaged just 5:29 time of possession per game with a lead.

14.3

Denver stopped opposing running backs for a loss or no gain on just 14.3 percent of their carries, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.



Kansas City CHIEFS

AFC West Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Clark Hunt
President: Mark Donovan
General Manager: Brett Veach
Director of Football Administration: Brandt Tilius
Stadium: Arrowhead Stadium (76,416)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.chiefs.com
Tickets: 888-99-CHIEF
Training Camp: Missouri Western State University (St. Joseph, Mo.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Andy Reid
Record With Team: 65-31
Career Record: 195-124-1
Offensive Coordinator: Eric Bieniemy
Defensive Coordinator: Steve Spagnuolo
Special Teams Coordinator: Dave Toub
Quarterbacks: Mike Kafka
Running Backs: Deland McCullough
Wide Receivers: Greg Lewis
Tight Ends: Tom Melvin
Offensive Line: Andy Heck
Run Game Coordinator/DL: Brendan Daly
Linebackers: Matt House
Outside Linebackers: Britt Reid
Defensive Backs: Dave Merritt
Defensive Backs/Cornerbacks: Sam Madison

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4t)
Sept. 15	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Sept. 22	Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Sept. 29	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
Oct. 6	Indianapolis	8:20	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Oct. 13	Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)
Oct. 17	at Denver (Thu.)	8:20	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Oct. 27	Green Bay	8:20	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)
Nov. 3	Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Nov. 10	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Nov. 18	vs. L.A. Chargers (Mexico) (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)
BYE							
Dec. 1	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Dec. 8	at New England	4:25	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Dec. 15	Denver	1:00	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Dec. 22	at Chicago	8:20	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Dec. 29	L.A. Chargers	1:00	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)

It's been 50 years since the Chiefs played in a Super Bowl. That's more than two Patrick Mahomes lifetimes, but the reigning NFL MVP's brilliance last season had KC within an overtime coin flip of playing for the Lombardi Trophy. As Mahomes prepares for his encore, it's clear that the Chiefs' rallying cry is Super Bowl LIV or bust. Toward that end, Kansas City retooled its defense, the Achilles heel last season. Defensive coordinator Bob Sutton was fired, and Steve Spagnuolo, a longtime assistant under coach Andy Reid in Philadelphia, was brought in to give the defense a championship-worthy overhaul. The Chiefs dumped the bloated salaries of a pair of franchise icons, outside linebacker Justin Houston and safety Eric Berry, reloading instead with defensive end Frank Clark and safety Tyrann Mathieu as the new leaders of a remade unit.

OFFENSE Mahomes led the Chiefs to a franchise-record third straight AFC West title by throwing for 5,097 yards and 50 touchdowns last season. Peyton Manning in 2013 is the only other QB in NFL history to throw for at least 5,000 yards and 50 touchdowns in a season. The Chiefs offense scored the third-most points of any team in NFL history (565) last season, and Reid spent the offseason in the lab tinkering with plays now that he knows all that Mahomes can do. That has to terrify opposing defensive coordinators.

The Chiefs' high-octane offense won't fall off much despite the loss of two key playmakers. Running back Kareem Hunt was released in November after video surfaced of him appearing to shove and kick a woman, and All-Pro wide receiver Tyreek Hill's future with the team — and in the league — is in serious jeopardy amid a child abuse investigation.

The Chiefs don't have a running back of Hunt's ability on the roster, but the stable isn't empty. Reid's system has thrived with agile backs who catch well out of the backfield. Damien Williams, sixth-round pick Darwin Thompson and undrafted rookie James Williams fit that bill. Kansas City signed Carlos Hyde to a tidy one-year contract as an option between the tackles alongside second-year back Darrel Williams. The team also re-signed fan favorite and special teams star Anthony Sherman at fullback.

Losing Hill and his unique skill set probably was a bigger blow. The Chiefs also lost Chris Conley in free agency. Sammy Watkins is now the team's top wide receiver, but durability remains a concern. Second-round pick Mecole Hardman from Georgia offers intriguing speed, but the converted cornerback spent only two years at the position. He'll need time to develop his route tree, leaving the Chiefs to hope that Demarcus Robinson rises to the occasion in a contract year; that Byron Pringle is more than a 2018 preseason wonder; and/or that Sammie Coates is a diamond in the rough.

With Rob Gronkowski's retirement, Travis Kelce is the AFC's top tight end. He's averaged 90 catches, 1,166 yards and seven touchdowns over the last three seasons. Mahomes may lean on him even more. The Chiefs signed Blake Bell in the offseason, but the drop-off behind Kelce is immense.

Along the offensive line, the Chiefs are OK — albeit thin in spots — despite losing starting center Mitch Morse and talented, versatile interior lineman Jordan Devey in free agency. Starting tackles Eric Fisher and Mitchell Schwartz are solid. Starting guards Cam Erving and Laurent Duvernay-Tardif are serviceable and will be pushed by the Chiefs' top rookie last season, Andrew Wylie. Austin Reiter will get the first crack at replacing Morse.



QB **PATRICK MAHOMES**



2018 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 9	at L.A. Chargers	W	38-28
Sept. 16	at Pittsburgh	W	42-37
Sept. 23	San Francisco	W	38-27
Oct. 1	at Denver	W	27-23
Oct. 7	Jacksonville	W	30-14
Oct. 14	at New England	L	40-43
Oct. 21	Cincinnati	W	45-10
Oct. 28	Denver	W	30-23
Nov. 4	at Cleveland	W	37-21
Nov. 11	Arizona	W	26-14
Nov. 19	at L.A. Rams	L	51-54
Dec. 2	at Oakland	W	40-33
Dec. 9	Baltimore (ot)	W	27-24
Dec. 13	L.A. Chargers	L	28-29
Dec. 23	at Seattle	L	31-38
Dec. 30	Oakland	W	35-3
Postseason			
Jan. 12	Indianapolis	W	31-13
Jan. 20	New England (ot)	L	31-37

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING		ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Patrick Mahomes		580	383	5,097	50	12
RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Kareem Hunt		181	824	4.6	7	
Patrick Mahomes		60	272	4.5	2	
Damien Williams		50	256	5.1	4	
Spencer Ware		51	246	4.8	2	
RECEIVING		REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tyreek Hill		87	1,479	17.0	12	
Travis Kelce		103	1,336	13.0	10	
Sammy Watkins		40	519	13.0	3	
Kareem Hunt		26	378	14.5	7	
Chris Conley		32	334	10.4	5	

KICKING: Harrison Butker, 24-27 FGs, 65-69 PAT, 137 points

TACKLES: Anthony Hitchens, 135; Reggie Ragland, 86

SACKS: Chris Jones, 15.5; Dee Ford, 13.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Steven Nelson, 4; two tied with 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	425.6	1	1
Rushing	115.9	16	9
Passing	309.7	3	2
Scoring	35.3	1	1
Third Down %	47.2	2	2
Punt Returns	11.9	3	2
Kick Returns	24.4	T7	T5

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	405.5	31	15
Rushing	132.1	27	12
Passing	273.4	31	15
Scoring	26.3	24	12
Interceptions	15	T9	T6
Sacks	52	T1	T1
Turnover Differential	+9	6	3

DEFENSE Sutton's 3-4 base defense is gone. Houston and Berry were cut. Outside linebacker Dee Ford was traded to San Francisco for a 2020 second-round pick. But it's hard to blame Reid and GM Brett Veach for the housecleaning after the Chiefs finished in the bottom 10 in the NFL last season in total defense, passing defense, rushing defense and scoring defense.

Enter Spagnuolo, a former Super Bowl-winning defensive coordinator, and his aggressive 4-3 scheme. The Chiefs spent a lot of draft capital in 2018 — the first four picks a year ago were end Breeland Speaks, tackle Derrick Nnadi, linebacker Dorian O'Daniel and safety Armani Watts — almost as if a switch to a 4-3 base was inevitable. It limited those players' impact last season but may ease the transition in 2019.

The pass rush, which tied for the NFL lead with 52 sacks last season, was the lone bright spot. On the surface, it didn't make sense to jettison Houston and Ford, but those losses were mitigated after Kansas City pulled off the trade for Clark with Seattle. The price was steep — a 2019 first-round pick, a 2020 second-round pick and a five-year contract extension at \$105.5 million — but Veach and the Chiefs believe Clark is arguably the most complete defensive end in the NFL. If it nets a Super Bowl, it's a steal.

Kansas City also added Alex Okafor in free agency and traded for Emmanuel Ogbah, who should be motivated in a contract year, at defensive end. Defensive tackle Chris Jones led the team with 15.5 sacks last season, and the new scheme should maximize his strengths — quick feet and a knack for penetration. The defensive tackle rotation also includes second-year run stuffer Nnadi, veteran Xavier Williams and uber-athletic third-round pick Khalen Saunders — a group loaded with depth, talent and promise.

Linebacker is more of a question mark. Settling on a middle linebacker will be the first priority. Reggie Ragland will get a chance, but he may not be an ideal fit with limited athleticism and coverage skills. Perhaps Anthony Hitchens, who flourished at the Mike in Dallas, will find a home there and bounce back from a disappointing 2018 season after signing a big-money deal last offseason.

The Chiefs signed another former Cowboy, Damien Wilson, who should fit well at the strong-side linebacker spot, with second-year linebackers O'Daniel and Ben Niemann as possibilities at weak-side linebacker (unless Hitchens lands there). Camp battles and special teams will flesh out the depth with free agent additions Jeremiah Attaochu and Martrell Spaight in the mix.

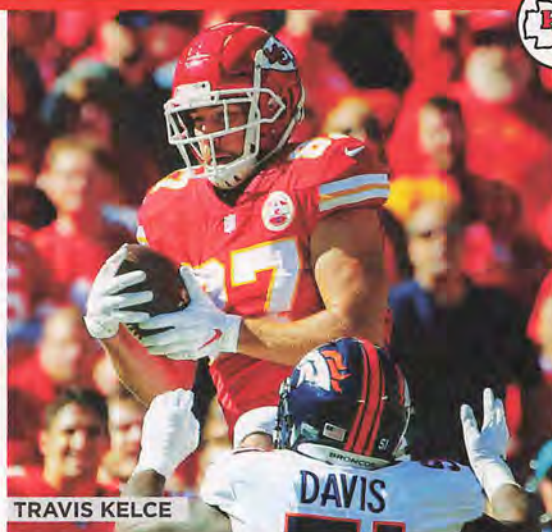
Mathieu slides into Berry's role as strong safety and leader of the secondary. He and Clark are expected to set the tempo in terms of ferocity. Jordan Lucas and Juan Thornhill — a rangy, long-armed and versatile second-round pick from Virginia — will compete for the other starting safety job, with Watts providing depth.

Cornerback is arguably the weakest position for the Chiefs. Kansas City is banking on Kendall Fuller, who was acquired last offseason in the Alex Smith trade, to return to form as an elite nickel corner. Veteran addition Bashaud Breeland and Charvarius Ward, who showed promise in a late-season cameo as the starter last year, will get the first crack at the outside corner roles, with Keith Reaser and Tremon Smith in the mix to provide depth. Rashad Fenton projects as a developmental nickel corner.

Taken as a whole, it's fair to believe that the pieces are in place for an improved unit. But will it improve enough to make the Chiefs a true title threat? Those answers won't come until September.

SPECIALISTS The club's longest-tenured player, punter Dustin Colquitt, returns along with placekicker Harrison Butker and long snapper James Winchester. Smith flashed potential last season as a kick returner, though others surely will get a crack at the job in training camp, while Hardman figures to replace Hill at punt returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Chiefs expect to be a Super Bowl contender despite a vastly improved AFC West. They will be if Mahomes doesn't regress too much and the defense improves, even marginally.



TRAVIS KELCE



2019 VETERAN CHIEFS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Henne, Chad	QB	6-3	222	10	Michigan			FA-Jac-18		D2b-Mia-08
8	Litton, Chase	QB	6-5	230	1	Marshall			FA-18		FA-KC-18
15	Mahomes, Patrick	QB	6-3	230	2	Texas Tech			D1-17		D1-KC-17
5	Manuel, EJ	QB	6-4	237	5	Florida State			FA-19		D1-Buf-13
RUNNING BACKS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34	Hyde, Carlos	RB	6-0	235	5	Ohio State			FA-Jac-19		D2-SF-14
43	Moore, J.D.	RB	6-2	235	1	LSU			FA-18		FA-KC-18
42	Sherman, Anthony	FB	5-10	242	8	Connecticut			T-Ari-13		D5-Ari-11
26	Williams, Damien	RB	5-11	224	5	Oklahoma			FA-18		FA-Mia-14
31	Williams, Darrel	RB	5-11	224	1	LSU			FA-18		FA-KC-18
RECEIVERS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
81	Bell, Blake	TE	6-6	252	4	Oklahoma			FA-Jac-19		D4-SF-15
13	Coates, Sammie	WR	6-1	210	4	Auburn			FA-19		D3-Pit-15
6	Crockett, Josh	WR	6-4	195	1	Central Oklahoma			FA-18		FA-KC-18
12	Dieter, Gehrig	WR	6-3	207	1	Alabama			FA-17		FA-KC-17
85	Grayson, Davon	WR	6-2	187	1	East Carolina			FA-19		FA-KC-18
10	Hill, Tyreek	WR	5-10	185	3	West Alabama			D5b-16		D5b-KC-16
87	Kelce, Travis	TE	6-5	260	6	Cincinnati			D3a-13		D3a-KC-13
19	Kemp, Marcus	WR	6-4	210	1	Hawaii			FA-17		FA-KC-17
1	Pringle, Byron	WR	6-1	203	1	Kansas State			FA-18		FA-KC-18
11	Robinson, Demarcus	WR	6-1	203	3	Florida			D4c-16		D4c-KC-16
14	Watkins, Sammy	WR	6-1	211	5	Clemson			FA-LAR-18		D1-Buf-14
88	Wells, David	TE	6-6	260	1	San Diego State			FA-18		FA-Dal-18
82	Yelder, Deon	TE	6-4	255	1	Western Kentucky			FA-18		FA-NO-18
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76	Duvernay-Tardif, Laurent	G	6-5	321	5	McGill			D6b-14		D6b-KC-14
75	Erving, Cam	OL	6-5	313	4	Florida State			T-Cle-17		D1-Cle-15
72	Fisher, Eric	T	6-7	315	6	Central Michigan			D1-13		D1-KC-13
60	Hunter, Ryan	T	6-3	316	1	Bowling Green			FA-18		FA-KC-18
66	McKenzie, Kahlil	G	6-3	320	1	Tennessee			D6b-18		D6b-KC-18
70	Murphy, Pace	T	6-6	308	1	Northwestern State			FA-18		FA-LAR-16
67	Murray, Jimmy	C	6-5	305	1	Holy Cross			FA-18		FA-KC-18
62	Reiter, Austin	OL	6-3	300	3	South Florida			W-Cle-18		D7-Cle-15
71	Schwartz, Mitchell	T	6-5	320	7	California			FA-16		D2-Cle-12
65	Senior, Justin	T	6-5	329	2	Mississippi State			FA-19		D6-Sea-17
77	Wylie, Andrew	T	6-6	309	1	Eastern Michigan			FA-17		FA-Ind-17
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55	Clark, Frank	DE	6-3	265	4	Michigan			T-Sea-19		D2-Sea-15
74	Hamilton, Justin	DT	6-2	315	2	UL Lafayette			FA-17		FA-Phi-17
90	Ivie, Joey	DT	6-3	301	1	Florida			FA-18		D7-Dal-17
95	Jones, Chris	DT	6-6	310	3	Mississippi State			D2-16		D2-KC-16
91	Nnadi, Derrick	DT	6-1	312	1	Florida State			D3-18		D3-KC-18
90	Ogbah, Emmanuel	DE	6-4	275	3	Oklahoma State			T-Cle-19		D2-Cle-16
99	Okafor, Alex	DE	6-4	261	6	Texas			FA-NO-19		D4a-Ari-13
98	Williams, Xavier	DT	6-2	309	4	Northern Iowa			FA-Ari-18		FA-Ari-15
LINEBACKERS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
51	Attachou, Jeremiah	LB	6-3	252	5	Georgia Tech			FA-NYJ-19		D2-LAC-14
46	Davison, Raymond	LB	6-1	230	1	California			FA-18		FA-KC-18
53	Hitchens, Anthony	LB	6-0	235	5	Iowa			FA-Dal-18		D4-Dal-14
92	Kpassagnon, Tanoh	LB	6-7	289	2	Villanova			D2-17		D2-KC-17
52	McCray, Rob	LB	6-2	280	1	Indiana			FA-18		FA-KC-18
56	Niemann, Ben	LB	6-2	235	1	Iowa			FA-18		FA-KC-18
44	O'Daniel, Dorian	LB	6-1	220	1	Clemson			D3b-18		D3b-KC-18
59	Ragland, Reggie	LB	6-2	252	3	Alabama			T-Buf-17		D2-Buf-16
50	Spaight, Martrell	LB	6-0	243	4	Arkansas			FA-Jac-19		D5-Was-15
57	Speaks, Breeland	LB	6-3	285	1	Ole Miss			D2-18		D2-KC-18
54	Wilson, Damien	LB	6-0	245	4	Minnesota			FA-Dal-19		D4-Dal-15
DEFENSIVE BACKS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
21	Breeland, Bashaud	CB	5-11	195	5	Clemson			FA-GB-19		D4-Was-14
23	Fuller, Kendall	CB	5-11	198	3	Virginia Tech			T-Was-18		D3-Was-16
38	Johnson, Dontae	DB	6-2	200	5	NC State			FA-19		D4-SF-14
30	Jones-Quartey, Harold	DB	5-11	210	2	Findlay			FA-19		FA-Ari-15
24	Lucas, Jordan	S	6-1	190	3	Penn State			T-Mia-16		D6-Mia-16
32	Mathieu, Tyrann	S	5-9	190	6	LSU			FA-Hou-19		D3-Ari-13
34	McQuay, Leon	S	6-1	195	1	USC			FA-18		D6-KC-17
20	Reaser, Keith	CB	6-0	190	3	Florida Atlantic			FA-19		D5-SF-14
39	Smith, Tremon	CB	6-0	190	1	Central Arkansas			D6a-18		D6a-KC-18
49	Sorensen, Daniel	S	6-2	208	5	BYU			FA-14		FA-KC-14
40	Wade, D'Montre	DB	5-11	206	1	Murray State			FA-18		FA-KC-18
35	Ward, Charvarius	CB	6-1	198	1	Middle Tennessee			T-Dal-18		FA-Dal-18
25	Watts, Armani	S	5-11	205	1	Texas A&M			D4-18		D4-KC-18
SPECIALISTS					POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
7	Butker, Harrison	K	6-4	205	2	Georgia Tech			FA-17		FA-Car-17
2	Colquitt, Dustin	P	6-3	210	14	Tennessee			D3-05		D3-KC-05
41	Winchester, James	LS	6-3	240	4	Oklahoma			FA-15		FA-Phi-13

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	Mecole Hardman (R)	12	Gehrig Dieter
WR	14 Sammy Watkins	13	Sammie Coates
WR	11 Demarcus Robinson	1	Byron Pringle
LT	72 Eric Fisher	65	Justin Senior
LG	75 Cam Erving	66	Kahlil McKenzie
C	62 Austin Reiter	67	Jimmy Murray
RG	76 L. Duvernay-Tardif		Nick Allegretti (R)
RT	71 Mitchell Schwartz	77	Andrew Wylie
TE	87 Travis Kelce	81	Blake Bell
QB	15 Patrick Mahomes	4	Chad Henne
RB	26 Damien Williams	34	Carlos Hyde

DEFENSE

DE	55 Frank Clark	90	Emmanuel Ogbah
DT	91 Derrick Nnadi	98	Xavier Williams
DT	95 Chris Jones		Khalen Saunders (R)
DE	99 Alex Okafor	57	Breeland Speaks
WLB	44 Dorian O'Daniel	56	Ben Niemann
MLB	53 Anthony Hitchens	59	Reggie Ragland
SLB	54 Damien Wilson	51	Jeremiah Attaochu
CB	21 Bashaud Breeland	23	Kendall Fuller
CB	35 Charvarius Ward	20	Keith Reaser
SS	32 Tyrann Mathieu	25	Armani Watts
FS	Juan Thornhill (R)	24	Jordan Lucas

SPECIALISTS

K	7 Harrison Butker	KR	39 Tremon Smith
P	2 Dustin Colquitt	PR	Mecole Hardman (R)

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
LB	Jeremiah Attaochu	N.Y. Jets
CB	Bashaud Breeland	Green Bay
DE	Frank Clark	Seattle
RB	Carlos Hyde	Jacksonville
S	Tyrann Mathieu	Houston
DE	Emmanuel Ogbah	Cleveland
DE	Alex Okafor	New Orleans
CB	Keith Reaser	Orlando (AAF)
LB	Damien Wilson	Dallas

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DE	Allen Bailey	Free Agent
CB	Eric Berry	Free Agent
WR	Chris Conley	Jacksonville
OLB	Dee Ford	San Francisco
OLB	Justin Houston	Indianapolis
C	Mitch Morse	Buffalo
CB	Steven Nelson	Pittsburgh
CB	Orlando Scandrick	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE CHIEFS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP KANSAS CITY "The development and transition of Patrick Mahomes from college spread quarterback to All-Pro in his second season has been remarkable to watch. The Chiefs thought he would be special and, wow, did he deliver in 2018. ... Despite a tumultuous offseason and a number of key defections, anything less than a Super Bowl will be disappointing in KC. ... Andy Reid and former GM John Dorsey took chances on Kareem Hunt and Tyreek Hill; now Hunt is in Cleveland on an eight-game suspension, and Hill's career is in jeopardy after another domestic incident. ... Travis Kelce is the anchor of their throw game. Last year, he had 103 receptions and 10 TDs while controlling the middle of the field. ... The left side of the OL has always been shaky and remains that way. ... After the defensive meltdown in the AFC title game, Bob Sutton is out and Steve Spagnuolo is in. ... They traded Dee Ford and allowed Justin Houston to walk in free agency, but they gave up a first-round pick and signed Frank Clark to a huge deal. ... Speaking of pressure and attention, Chris Jones will be a marked man after his 15.5-sack season. Derrick Nnadi was impressive as a rookie and should improve their run D in 2019. ... Kendall Fuller is a quality corner, but they will miss Steven Nelson, who left for the Steelers. ... The biggest question for them will be defensive leadership; who takes over for Houston and Eric Berry? However, with Mahomes and this offense, it may not matter."



Chiefs IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Mecole Hardman	WR	5-10	187	Georgia
2.	Juan Thornhill	S	6-0	205	Virginia
3.	Khalen Saunders	DT	6-0	324	Western Illinois
6.	Rashad Fenton	CB	5-11	193	South Carolina
6.	Darwin Thompson	RB	5-8	200	Utah State
7.	Nick Allegretti	G	6-4	310	Illinois

The Chiefs traded up five spots — and sacrificed a fifth-round pick — to nab Mecole Hardman as Tyreek Hill insurance. Hardman played wide receiver only two years at Georgia. The rangy and athletic Juan Thornhill is a fantastic complement to Tyrann Mathieu on the back end, while Khalen Saunders has a chance to be special with his rare blend of size and athleticism. Darwin Thompson, who averaged 6.8 yards per carry in his only season of FBS football, is a ball of muscle with shiftiness and a track record of production. He's a terrific pass catcher and could shine in Andy Reid's scheme. Rashad Fenton provides depth at nickel corner, and Nick Allegretti adds depth at interior offensive line, where the Chiefs lost center Mitch Morse and guard Jordan Devey in free agency.

Outside the Huddle

STATE LINE DRAMA For Tyrann Mathieu, greeting his former college coach Les Miles, who recently had been hired at the University of Kansas, on the day of his introductory press conference in March touched off a geography lesson. After tweeting, "Somebody tell coach Miles I followed him to Kansas @CoachLesMiles," Mathieu became embroiled in the area's centuries-long Border War. There are two Kansas Cities — one in Kansas and a larger one in Missouri, where the Chiefs actually play. Social media took note of Mathieu's gaffe. "I got a warm welcome this morning and no hard feelings," a laughing Mathieu later told reporters.

HILL INSURANCE The Chiefs' first draft pick — Georgia wideout Mecole Hardman, who went No. 56 overall in the second round — came as the club weighed Tyreek Hill's future amid a child abuse investigation. Kansas City traded the Nos. 61 and 167 picks to move up five spots for Hardman. Hill is a rocked-up, undersized receiver with Olympic-caliber speed, but Hardman brings similar qualities. The former Bulldogs star has elite return skills and projects as a potent deep threat — possibly in the DeSean Jackson mold.

A BACKFLIP-WORTHY PICK Do yourself a favor and search "khalen saunders backflip" in your internet browser. You're welcome. The Chiefs took defensive tackle Saunders in the third round out of Western Illinois. He's an impressive athletic specimen — a rare blend of size, power, speed and agility. Saunders will be a handful inside on twists and stunts, and he also was used as a standup edge at times in college.

KNOW YOUR WILLIAMS It has to be some sort of NFL record — three running backs named Williams on the same roster? The Chiefs signed Damien Williams to an extension after he ascended to a feature-back role when Kareem Hunt was cut late last year. Darrel Williams showed enough in camp last year to land a roster spot, and the team signed former Washington State Cougar James Williams as an undrafted rookie free agent. Defensive tackle Xavier Williams probably won't shift to the backfield, but it makes you wonder how Notre Dame's Dexter Williams and Texas A&M's Trayveon Williams got away from the Chiefs in the draft.

EXTENDED STAY FOR JONES Defensive tackle Chris Jones, who set an NFL record for consecutive games with a sack (11) last season, says he wants to be a Chief for life. Expect GM Brett Veach to lock up the budding star soon for the next half-decade or so after a breakout season in 2018, which included a team-high 15.5 sacks. League-wide, Jones trailed only NFL Defensive Player of the Year Aaron Donald of the Rams (20.5) and Houston's J.J. Watt (16).

TOUGH EARLY ROAD The Chiefs start the season with three of the first four games on the road, including a trip to Jacksonville followed by a trip to the opposite coast for the final showdown against the rival Raiders in Oakland to kick things off. Three of Kansas City's four games in October are nationally televised games — Indianapolis and Green Bay on "Sunday Night Football" and a showdown at Denver on "Thursday Night Football."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	9
2015	11
2016	12
2017	10
2018	12

★ Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.25

The Chiefs averaged 3.25 points per offensive drive, the most in the NFL. ...

39.57

But they allowed a league-worst 39.57 yards per defensive drive.

8.13

Kansas City averaged a lead of 8.13 points per defensive possession, the highest in the NFL.



Los Angeles CHARGERS

AFC West Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Controlling Owner/Chairman of the Board:

Dean A. Spanos

President of Football Operations:

John Spanos

General Manager:

Tom Telesco

Stadium:

Dignity Health Sports Park (30,000)

Surface:

Grass

Website:

www.chargers.com

Tickets:

877-CHARGERS (242-7437)

Training Camp:

Jack Hammett Sports Complex

(Costa Mesa, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach:

Anthony Lynn

Record With Team:

21-11

Career Record:

21-12

Offensive Coordinator:

Ken Whisenhunt

Defensive Coordinator:

Gus Bradley

Special Teams Coordinator/Assistant Head

Coach: George Stewart

Quarterbacks:

Shane Steichen

Running Backs:

Alfredo Roberts

Wide Receivers:

Phil McGeoghan

Tight Ends:

Rip Scherer

Offensive Line:

Pat Meyer

Defensive Line:

Giff Smith

Linebackers:

Richard Smith

Defensive Backs:

Ron Milus

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS						
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense		
Sept. 8	Indianapolis	4:05	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)		
Sept. 15	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)		
Sept. 22	Houston	4:25	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)		
Sept. 29	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (22)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)		
Oct. 6	Denver	4:05	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (29)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)		
Oct. 13	Pittsburgh	8:20	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)		
Oct. 20	at Tennessee	4:05	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)		
Oct. 27	at Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)		
Nov. 3	Green Bay	4:25	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)		
Nov. 7	at Oakland (Thu.)	8:20	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)		
Nov. 18	vs. Kansas City (Mexico) (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)		
BYE									
Dec. 1	at Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)		
Dec. 8	at Jacksonville	4:05	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4t)		
Dec. 15	Minnesota	8:20	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)		
Dec. 21/22	Oakland	TBD	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)		
Dec. 29	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)		

When Chargers owner Dean Spanos signed off on the hiring of Anthony Lynn, he believed Lynn could change a culture mired in mediocrity and self-sabotage. The Chargers had won just one playoff game over the seven seasons prior to his arrival. Those instincts appear to have been on target, as Lynn has immediately engineered the Chargers' best two-season stretch in over a decade, giving direction to a franchise that had otherwise been aimless. The Chargers won 12 games in 2018, and when they were finally dealt a gut punch by the Patriots in the playoffs, player after player insisted that their charmed run wouldn't be a one-off.

With one of the most talented rosters in the NFL, it shouldn't be. Amid massive sea change in the AFC West, the team that won 12 games a year ago remains largely the same. With Philip Rivers still firmly in his prime, the Chargers offense should remain one of the league's most explosive. The defense, with ascending stars such as Joey Bosa and Derwin James, is perhaps the league's most balanced across the board.

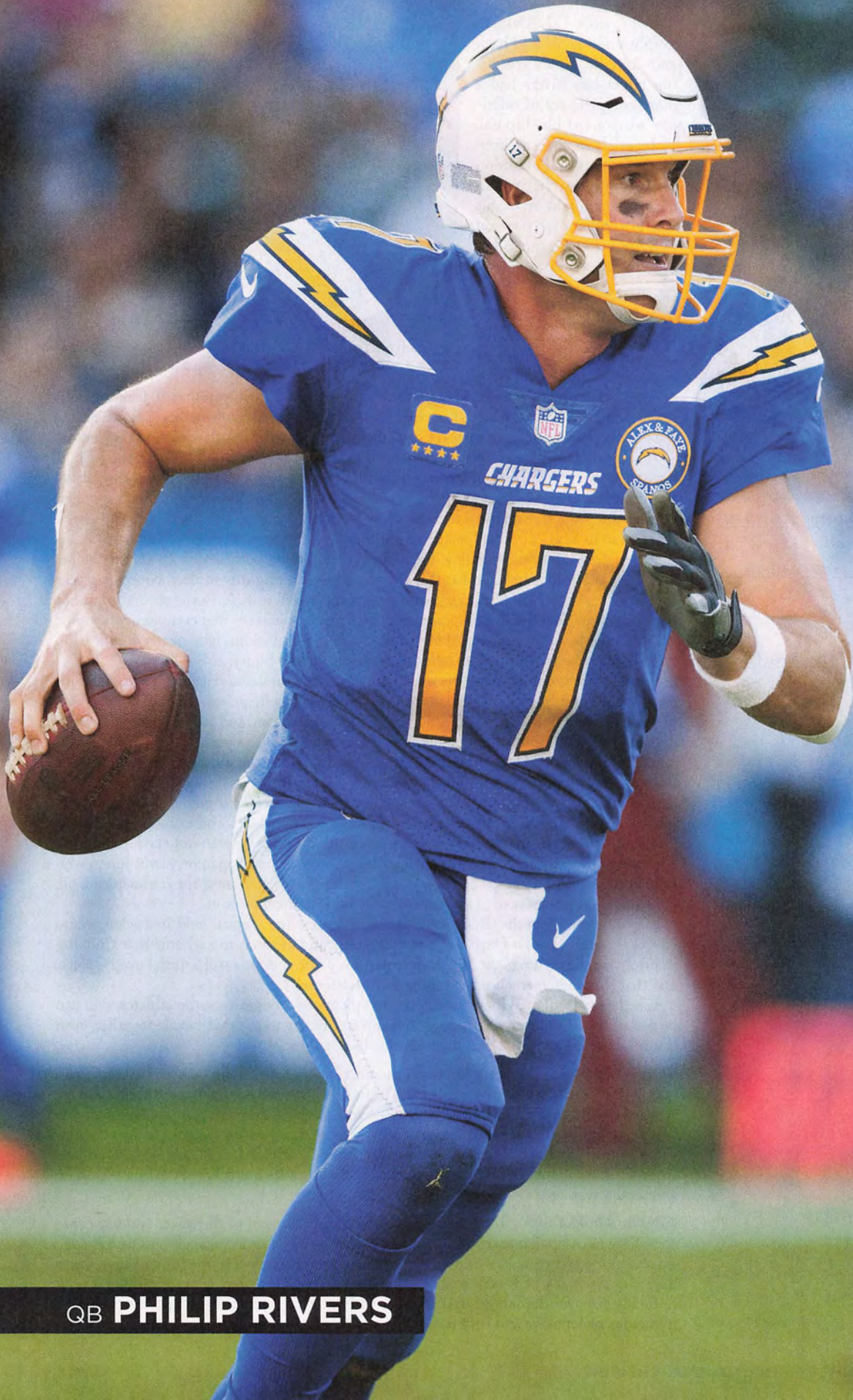
The Chargers showed flashes of greatness a year ago. Could it finally be their time, in Year 3 of the Lynn era, to put it all together?

OFFENSE At 37, in his 13th year as the Chargers starting quarterback, Rivers was better than ever. It's unclear how much longer the Chargers' fiery captain will want to continue slinging it, but the team has already declared its intention to re-sign him to one last deal. They'd have to be insane not to do everything possible to ensure that he retires a Charger. Judging by his performance last season, in which he threw 32 touchdowns and completed 68 percent of his passes, Rivers' swan song still seems a long way off.

His quick trigger and innate calm in a collapsing pocket help mitigate what might otherwise be a subpar situation up front. Left tackle Russell Okung and center Mike Pouncey have been consistent tentpoles. But starting right tackle Sam Tevi is a former sixth-rounder better suited for a backup role, while Dan Feeney has graded out poorly in each of his first two seasons starting at left guard. Either could be replaced this fall, though the list of linemen who might displace them is frighteningly short.

Elsewhere on offense, there is no shortage of top-tier talent. The backfield tandem of Melvin Gordon and Austin Ekeler is arguably the NFL's best; together, they produced 2,333 yards from scrimmage and 20 touchdowns last season. Those are eye-popping totals that may only increase in 2019 — if Gordon is able to stay healthy. He missed four games a year ago and gutted out injuries for a large swath of the season. Nonetheless, Gordon looked better than he ever had as a pro, as offensive coordinator Ken Whisenhunt experimented with new ways to use him and Ekeler together.

As the Chargers offense emerged as one of the league's best a year ago, no one took a bigger leap than former seventh overall pick Mike Williams, who scored 10 touchdowns on just 43 catches. With Tyrell Williams in Oakland, Mike Williams is primed to catch a lot more balls in a far more critical red zone role this season. He has Pro Bowl potential if he continues progressing at his current pace. Keenan Allen, meanwhile, should continue to do the damage he always does in the slot, where he's reeled in 199 passes over the past two seasons. Add a healthy Hunter Henry to that mix, and the Chargers will have an entire fleet of sure-handed pass catchers for Rivers to rely on.



QB **PHILIP RIVERS**



2018 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 9	Kansas City	L	28-38
Sept. 16	at Buffalo	W	31-20
Sept. 23	at L.A. Rams	L	23-35
Sept. 30	San Francisco	W	29-27
Oct. 7	Oakland	W	26-10
Oct. 14	at Cleveland	W	38-14
Oct. 21	Tennessee	W	20-19
Nov. 4	at Seattle	W	25-17
Nov. 11	at Oakland	W	20-6
Nov. 18	Denver	L	22-23
Nov. 25	Arizona	W	45-10
Dec. 2	at Pittsburgh	W	33-30
Dec. 9	Cincinnati	W	26-21
Dec. 13	at Kansas City	W	29-28
Dec. 22	Baltimore	L	10-22
Dec. 30	at Denver	W	23-9
Postseason			
Jan. 6	at Baltimore	W	23-17
Jan. 13	at New England	L	28-41

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Philip Rivers	508	347	4,308	32	12
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Melvin Gordon	175	885	5.1	10	
Austin Ekeler	106	554	5.2	3	
Justin Jackson	50	206	4.1	2	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Keenan Allen	97	1,196	12.3	6	
Mike Williams	43	664	15.4	10	
Tyrell Williams	41	653	15.9	5	
Melvin Gordon	50	490	9.8	4	
Austin Ekeler	39	404	10.4	3	
Antonio Gates	28	333	11.9	2	

KICKING: Michael Badgley, 15-16 FGs, 27-28 PAT, 72 points

TACKLES: Derwin James, 105; Jatavis Brown, 97

SACKS: Melvin Ingram, 7.0; Joey Bosa, 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Derwin James, 3; Desmond King, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	372.6	11	6
Rushing	117.1	15	8
Passing	255.6	10	5
Scoring	26.8	T6	T4
Third Down %	39.5	16	8
Punt Returns	10.5	T8	T6
Kick Returns	23.3	13	8

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	333.7	9	6
Rushing	105.8	9	5
Passing	227.9	9	5
Scoring	20.6	8	6
Interceptions	13	T15	T10
Sacks	38	T19	T8
Turnover Differential	+1	T15	T8

Not since LaDainian Tomlinson was his lead back and Antonio Gates was his top target has Rivers had a more complete set of offensive weapons at his disposal. If the offensive line can keep him upright and Gordon can stay healthy, the veteran quarterback might be on his way to another career season as he gets ready to turn 38 in December.

DEFENSE In the first round of the NFL playoffs, Chargers defensive coordinator Gus Bradley rolled out a gameplan to stop Ravens



JOEY BOSA

quarterback Lamar Jackson. Using seven defensive backs, he smothered Jackson with speed and clogged throwing lanes with zone coverage. Now, considering just how deep the Chargers are at defensive back, a similar strategy might be worth revisiting this season.

A seven-defensive back look is the sort of thing you can only pull off with the help of a versatile safety like Derwin James, whose skill set allows him to function essentially as a cornerback, edge rusher and linebacker, wrapped into one. As a rookie, James excelled at everything the Chargers asked him to do, from manning up tight ends to rushing the passer, and in Year 2, Bradley is sure to find new, creative ways to deploy him.

A new free safety should allow for more experimenting with James. The Chargers released Jahleel Addae in the offseason after he struggled mightily in deep coverage a year ago. Rookie safety Nasir Adderley, who unexpectedly fell to L.A. in the second round of the draft, looks like the ideal replacement, with a sticky skill set that complements James' ability in the box. But first, he'll have to beat out Jaylen Watkins, who nearly won the job from Addae a year ago prior to suffering a season-ending injury.

His injury was one of many the team had to weather on defense a season ago, and with a clean bill of health, it's possible that the Chargers take a huge leap forward on that side of the ball. Bosa didn't even play a down until late November, and the Chargers pass rush collapsed without him. When he rejoined the defense, the Chargers won six of their next eight. He'll need to stay healthy for this defense to unlock the elite potential it has with Bosa and fellow edge rusher Melvin Ingram.

The rest of the rotation up front remains somewhat in flux. First-round defensive tackle Jerry Tillery should fit nicely at as a 3-technique, where his 6'6" frame and quick-twitch first step would help an otherwise non-existent interior rush. Veteran nose tackle Brandon Mebane was re-signed, but he's likely to cede snaps to his heir apparent, Justin Jones, who impressed with limited reps a year ago. The rotation beyond those three is undetermined, after the Chargers left several key contributors walk in the offseason.

The only free agent the Chargers added on defense came at weak-side linebacker, where 15-year veteran Thomas Davis will add athleticism and instincts to a scheme that's looking to prioritize those things. At 36, Davis is past his prime, but he's still a useful puzzle piece, one that should help anchor the Chargers run defense.

Like last season, the Chargers defense has plenty of scheme-versatile athletes who can be pieced together in myriad ways. It'll be up to Bradley to put that puzzle together, even if it might mean playing seven defensive backs at a time.

SPECIALISTS The years-long nightmare at kicker may finally be over for the Chargers. After Caleb Sturgis missed six extra points in 15 tries a season ago, Michael Badgley stepped in and made almost everything the rest of the season. The curse may finally be lifted. At punter, the news is less positive. The Chargers enter camp with two rookies vying for the job. UAB's Ty Long is considered the favorite, but it's likely wide open. The Chargers have plenty of options at returner, including Desmond King, who proved to be a natural a year ago.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Chargers are bringing back most of the roster from last season's 12-win campaign and betting on key players to develop accordingly. All things considered, not a bad plan. Few teams have as many promising young players, and even fewer have a quarterback of Rivers' caliber. It'll be up to the 37-year-old future Hall of Famer to finally get over the hump, after a career without even a Super Bowl appearance. With numerous playmakers and very few obvious holes on the roster, this could be the year.



2019 VETERAN CHARGERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
7 Jones, Cardale	QB	6-5	250	3	Ohio State	T-Buf-17	D4-Buf-16
17 Rivers, Philip	QB	6-5	228	15	NC State	T-NYG-04	D1-NYG-04
5 Taylor, Tyrod	QB	6-1	217	8	Virginia Tech	FA-Cle-19	D6-Bal-11
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
30 Ekeler, Austin	RB	5-10	200	2	Western State	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
25 Gordon III, Melvin	RB	6-1	215	4	Wisconsin	D1-15	D1-LAC-15
32 Jackson, Justin	RB	6-0	199	1	Northwestern	D7-18	D7-LAC-18
38 Newsome, Detrez	RB	5-10	210	1	Western Carolina	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
35 Pope, Troymaine	RB	5-9	205	1	Jacksonville State	FA-18	FA-Sea-16
34 Watt, Derek	FB	6-2	234	3	Wisconsin	D6-16	D6-LAC-16
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
13 Allen, Keenan	WR	6-2	211	6	California	D3-13	D3-LAC-13
12 Benjamin, Travis	WR	5-10	175	7	Miami	FA-Cle-16	D4-Cle-12
84 Cantrell, Dylan	WR	6-3	226	1	Texas Tech	D6-18	D6-LAC-18
80 Culkin, Sean	TE	6-5	255	2	Missouri	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
11 Davis, Jeremy	WR	6-3	211	4	Connecticut	FA-16	D6-NYG-15
88 Green, Virgil	TE	6-5	255	8	Nevada	FA-Den-18	D7a-Den-11
86 Henry, Hunter	TE	6-5	250	3	Arkansas	D2-16	D2-LAC-16
1 Liggins, Justice	WR	6-1	209	1	Stephen F. Austin	FA-18	FA-Ind-17
83 Mayle, Vince	TE	6-2	247	3	Washington State	FA-18	D4-Cle-15
15 Patton, Andre	WR	6-2	200	1	Rutgers	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
42 Roberts, Austin	TE	6-2	230	1	UCLA	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
10 Scott, Artavis	WR	5-11	195	1	Clemson	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
81 Williams, Mike	WR	6-4	220	2	Clemson	D1-17	D1-LAC-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
74 Drango, Spencer	G/T	6-6	315	2	Baylor	FA-18	D5-Cle-16
66 Feeney, Dan	G	6-4	310	2	Indiana	D3-17	D3-LAC-17
77 Lamp, Forrest	G	6-4	310	2	Western Kentucky	D2-17	D2-LAC-17
76 Okung, Russell	T	6-5	310	9	Oklahoma State	FA-Den-17	D1a-Sea-10
53 Pouncey, Mike	C	6-5	298	8	Florida	FA-Mia-18	D1-Mia-11
61 Quessenberry, Scott	C/G	6-4	310	1	UCLA	D5-18	D5-LAC-18
75 Schofield III, Michael	G	6-6	301	5	Michigan	W-Den-17	D3-Den-14
68 Scott, Trent	T	6-5	320	1	Grambling State	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
69 Tevi, Sam	T	6-5	315	2	Utah	D6-17	D6-LAC-17
64 Toner, Cole	C/G	6-5	300	2	Harvard	FA-17	D5-Ari-16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
96 Alfray, Patrick	DE	6-2	240	1	Colgate	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
97 Bosa, Joey	DE	6-5	280	3	Ohio State	D1-16	D1-LAC-16
54 Ingram III, Melvin	DE	6-2	247	7	South Carolina	D1-12	D1-LAC-12
93 Jones, Justin	DL	6-3	309	1	NC State	D3-18	D3-LAC-18
90 Lanier, Anthony	DE	6-6	285	2	Alabama A&M	FA-18	FA-Was-16
95 McGill, T.Y.	DT	6-0	299	4	NC State	W-Phi-18	FA-Sea-15
92 Mebane, Brandon	NT	6-1	311	12	California	FA-Sea-16	D3-Sea-07
98 Rochell, Isaac	DE	6-4	280	1	Notre Dame	D7-17	D7-LAC-17
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
57 Brown, Jatavis	OLB	5-11	221	3	Akron	D5-16	D5-LAC-16
58 Davis, Thomas	LB	6-1	235	14	Georgia	FA-Car-19	D1-Car-05
48 Dzubnar, Nick	ILB	6-1	240	4	Cal Poly-SLO	FA-15	FA-SD-15
50 Johnson, TreVon	LB	6-2	232	1	Weber State	FA-18	FA-Ari-17
42 Nwosu, Uchenna	LB	6-2	251	1	USC	D2-18	D2-LAC-18
52 Perryman, Denzel	OLB	5-11	240	4	Miami	D2-15	D2-LAC-15
44 White, Kyzir	LB	6-2	218	1	West Virginia	D4-18	D4-LAC-18
56 Wilson, Kyle	LB	6-0	231	1	Arkansas State	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
43 Davis, Michael	CB	6-2	195	2	BYU	FA-17	FA-LAC-17
36 Facyson, Brandon	CB	6-2	197	1	Virginia Tech	FA-18	FA-LAC-18
26 Hayward Jr., Casey	CB	5-11	192	7	Vanderbilt	FA-GB-16	D2b-GB-12
33 James, Derwin	S	6-2	215	1	Florida State	D1-18	D1-LAC-18
20 King II, Desmond	CB	5-10	200	2	Iowa	D5-17	D5-LAC-17
31 Phillips, Adrian	S	5-11	210	4	Texas	FA-14	FA-LAC-14
23 Richards, Jeff	CB	6-2	210	1	Emporia State	W-Car-17	FA-Car-17
39 Springs, Arrion	DB	5-10	208	1	Oregon	FA-18	FA-KC-18
27 Watkins, Jaylen	DB	5-11	194	4	Florida	FA-Phi-18	D4-Phi-14
24 Williams, Trevor	CB	5-11	191	3	Penn State	FA-16	FA-LAC-16
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
4 Badgley, Michael	K	5-10	183	1	Miami	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
1 Long, Ty	P	6-2	205	1	UAB	FA-19	FA-Was-15
45 Mazza, Cole	LS	6-2	235		Alabama	FA-19	FA-LAC-19
47 Windt, Mike	LS	6-1	237	9	Cincinnati	FA-10	FA-Cin-1

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	81	Mike Williams	11	Jeremy Davis
WR	13	Keenan Allen	84	Dylan Cantrell
WR	12	Travis Benjamin	10	Artavis Scott
LT	76	Russell Okung	79	Trey Pipkins (R)
LG	66	Dan Feeney	74	Spencer Drango
C	53	Mike Pouncey	61	Scott Quessenberry
RG	75	Michael Schofield	77	Forrest Lamp
RT	69	Sam Tevi	78	Trent Scott
TE	86	Hunter Henry	88	Virgil Green
QB	17	Philip Rivers	5	Tyrod Taylor
RB	25	Melvin Gordon	30	Austin Ekeler

DEFENSE

DE	97	Joey Bosa	98	Isaac Rochell
DT	99	Jerry Tillery (R)	91	Cortez Broughton (R)
NT	92	Brandon Mebane	93	Justin Jones
DE	54	Melvin Ingram	90	Anthony Lanier
OLB	42	Uchenna Nwosu	57	Jatavis Brown
ILB	52	Denzel Perryman	49	Drue Tranquill (R)
OLB	58	Thomas Davis	44	Kyzir White
CB	26	Casey Hayward	20	Desmond King
CB	43	Michael Davis	24	Trevor Williams
FS	32	Nasir Adderley (R)	27	Jaylen Watkins
SS	33	Derwin James	31	Adrian Phillips

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Michael Badgley	KR	20	Desmond King
P	1	Ty Long (R)	PR	12	Travis Benjamin

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

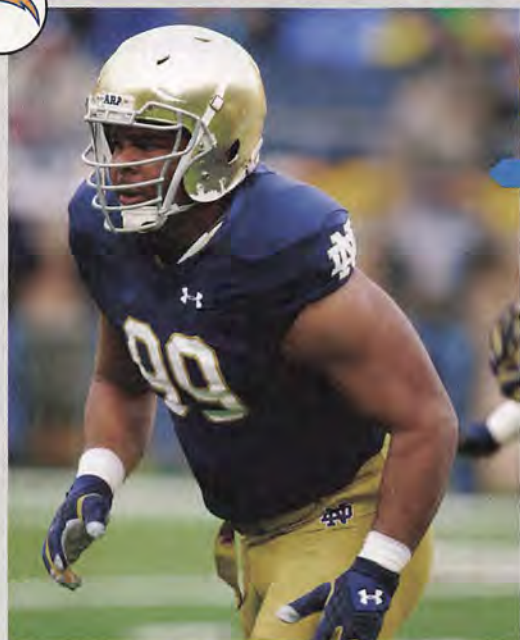
POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
OLB	Thomas Davis	Carolina
QB	Tyrod Taylor	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
FS	Jahleel Addae	Houston
OLB	Kyle Emanuel	Free Agent
DT	Darius Philon	Arizona
CB	Jason Verrett	San Francisco
WR	Tyrell Williams	Oakland

SCOUTING THE CHARGERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP LOS ANGELES "Coach Anthony Lynn and GM Tom Telesco have put together one of the best rosters in the AFC. Kansas City was a national story with Patrick Mahomes, so many have missed the fact that the Chargers have gone 21-7 since losing their first four games in 2017. ... Philip Rivers is such a joy to watch, all he does is show up and throw for a gazillion yards each year. ... Austin Ekeler forced himself into the mix with Melvin Gordon; both averaged five-plus per carry and caught 89 passes between them. ... They lost Hunter Henry during minicamp and persevered through almost all of 2018 without him. They cannot wait to get him back in the lineup. ... Keenan Allen is a consensus Pro Bowler, but his health and availability is always a concern. Mike Williams is a giant athlete and caught 10 TDs in five starts, so they let Tyrell Williams walk in free agency. ... The offensive line is a concern, with right tackle being the shakiest spot. ... Joey Bosa played in seven games and had 5.5 sacks. If he and Melvin Ingram can actually line up together, they can be legit on D. ... Brandon Mebane is a phenom and returns for his 13th season. First-round pick Jerry Tillery should start immediately. ... Jatavis Brown is an unknown, but he racked up 97 tackles and flies around the field. ... Desmond King earned All-Pro recognition as a punt returner, and in eight starts at corner, he broke up 10 passes and intercepted three more. ... Derwin James is a game-changer as a hybrid safety, and second-round pick Nasir Adderley should partner with him right away. ... It's not far-fetched to envision an All-L.A. Super Bowl. This is a quality football team."



Chargers IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Jerry Tillery	DT	6-6	295	Notre Dame
2.	Nasir Adderley	FS	6-0	206	Delaware
3.	Trey Pipkins	OT	6-6	309	Sioux Falls
4.	Drue Tranquill	ILB	6-2	234	Notre Dame
5.	Easton Stick	QB	6-1	224	North Dakota State
6.	Emeke Egbule	OLB	6-2	245	Houston
7.	Cortez Broughton	DT	6-2	293	Cincinnati

It's rare that a team can address all of its needs and still draft for maximum value, but Chargers general manager Tom Telesco managed to do it again with this draft. Jerry Tillery is a possible top-10 talent who fell to the end of the first round for consistency reasons, while Nasir Adderley, a first-round target of the Chargers, somehow fell all the way to the end of the second. Both should step in immediately, while the rest of the Chargers' impressive class will have time to learn behind established starters. Easton Stick is the first quarterback drafted by the Chargers since 2013, making his development behind Rivers something to watch. He won three FCS national championships while the starter at North Dakota State.

Outside the Huddle

GORDON'S CONTRACT When Todd Gurley signed a record-setting contract extension last fall, the clock officially started ticking for fellow 2015 first-rounder Melvin Gordon. Gordon hasn't been quite as productive as Gurley, but he hasn't been far behind, either. Last season, Gordon scored 14 touchdowns in just 12 games. The Chargers could move to extend him just before the season, like the Rams did with Gurley. But after seeing doubts emerge about Gurley's long-term health, the Chargers might start to ask their own questions about Gordon's durability. For now, though, general manager Tom Telesco says the team plans to sign him to an extension.

KING OF THE CORNERS Desmond King may still be classified as only a slot or nickel corner, but as far as NFL cornerbacks go, few graded out better as cover men than King last season. King intercepted three passes and racked up 62 tackles, furthering his reputation as one of the Chargers' hardest hitters. He's a textbook example of how important the slot corner has become in the modern NFL. Before long, he should get paid accordingly.

HENRY'S RETURN Hunter Henry was all set to be the heir to Antonio Gates in the Chargers offense. But an ACL tear in the preseason kept him out of the majority of the season, leaving the team to re-sign Gates after briefly moving on from him. With Henry fully healthy, there's no dispute who the Chargers' top tight end will be. Henry caught 12 TDs over his first two seasons as a pro, and his role should be substantially larger this season.

GREEN LIGHT FOR LAMP? When the Chargers drafted Forrest Lamp in the second round of the 2017 draft, the Western Kentucky product was seen as a huge steal for a team that desperately needed help up front. But since, Lamp has played just 17 snaps. An ACL tear hampered his initial progress, but even upon his return, Lamp couldn't break into the starting lineup. He may finally get his long-awaited chance this season, if he can beat out starting guards Michael Schofield or Dan Feeney in camp. "We brought in Forrest Lamp to be a longtime starter," Anthony Lynn says, "but we'll see."

DUNKING DERWIN In February, a video emerged on social media of Chargers safety Derwin James catching a pass off the backboard and dunking in a pick-up basketball game. It was an impressive dunk, but Telesco was less than enthused to see it. After watching James earn All-Pro honors as a rookie, the team's GM would rather the Chargers' prized safety keep as safe as possible, although the team ultimately decided to leave the decision to dunk up to James.

POWDER BLUES The Chargers' powder blue uniforms are already among the most iconic throwbacks in the NFL. But this season, by popular demand, they'll be more than that. The Chargers will wear the beloved powder blues as their primary uniform. They first wore the jerseys in 1960 during the franchise's first — and until recently only — season in L.A. "The powder blues are the best in sports," says safety Adrian Phillips. "So getting to wear them more, it feels like we get to turn up more."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.43

The Chargers averaged 2.43 points per offensive drive, fifth most in the NFL.

4.32

L.A. allowed just 4.32 points per defensive red zone drive, third fewest in the NFL.

30.25

The Chargers were the slowest offense in the NFL, averaging a play every 30.25 seconds.



Oakland RAIDERS

AFC West Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Mark Davis
President: Marc Badain
General Manager: Mike Mayock
Stadium: Oakland-Alameda County Coliseum (53,250)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.raiders.com
Tickets: 800-RAIDERS
Training Camp: Oakland Raiders Napa Valley Training Complex (Napa, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Jon Gruden
Record With Team: 42-38
Career Record: 99-93
Offensive Coordinator: Greg Olson
Defensive Coordinator: Paul Guenther
Assistant Head Coach/
Special Teams Coordinator: Rich Bisaccia
Running Backs: Kirby Wilson
Wide Receivers: Edgar Bennett
Tight Ends: Frank Smith
Offensive Line: Tom Cable
Defensive Line: Brentson Buckner
Defensive Line: Mike Trgovac
Linebackers: David Lippincott

The Raiders are a team in transition — and not just geographically. The hiring of Jon Gruden as coach last year sparked a makeover that included a change at general manager, trades of two star players and a roster overhaul. The result in Year 1 wasn't pretty — a 4-12 finish, two years removed from a 12-win season.

This offseason, the Raiders hired Mike Mayock as general manager, acquired star receiver Antonio Brown and used three first-round draft picks on what they hope are "foundation players" for a team that has made one playoff appearance in the last 16 years.

"I'm really excited about the future of this franchise," Gruden said during the draft. "But we've got to build this team."

The question: Will that process yield progress in the Raiders' last season in Oakland before a 2020 move to Las Vegas? Or will 2019 be just another layer of foundation?

OFFENSE Quarterback Derek Carr will be expected to lead the improvement after the Raiders added high-priced pieces around him. In Carr's first season with Gruden, he set career bests in completion percentage (68.9) and passing yards (4,049) but also had a career low in touchdown passes (19) as the Raiders ranked 28th in scoring. Carr was sacked 51 times, and the pressure combined with a lack of deep-threat receivers meant he seldom pushed the ball downfield. The Raiders targeted those issues by acquiring receivers Brown and Tyrell Williams and tackle Trent Brown. Carr was injured in each of the previous two seasons but played 16 games in 2018, and the Raiders gave him a vote of confidence by not pursuing a quarterback in the draft. They also released his 2018 backup, AJ McCarron. Mike Glennon, Landry Jones and Nathan Peterman will vie for that job.

The Raiders also let Marshawn Lynch become a free agent and will need a new lead back. They used a first-round draft pick on Alabama running back Josh Jacobs and resigned Doug Martin (after acquiring Isaiah Crowell, who promptly went down with a season-ending injury). They view Jacobs as a potential three-down back, although he must show that he can handle a heavy workload and also pass protect. Jalen Richard tied for the Raiders lead in catches (68) last season and played 40 percent of the offense's snaps. He should keep a sizable role as Gruden loves his versatility.

No unit changed more this offseason than receiver. Jordy Nelson and Seth Roberts are out. Brown, Williams, J.J. Nelson and Ryan Grant are in. Brown gives Carr a clear No. 1 receiver with at least 100 catches and 1,200 yards each of the last six seasons. Last season was Gruden's first as an NFL coach without a 1,000-yard receiver, and he'll delight in scheming ways to get Brown open. Williams and Nelson are deep threats — Williams has averaged 16.3 yards per catch in his career, Nelson 17.8 yards. Grant, who had 35

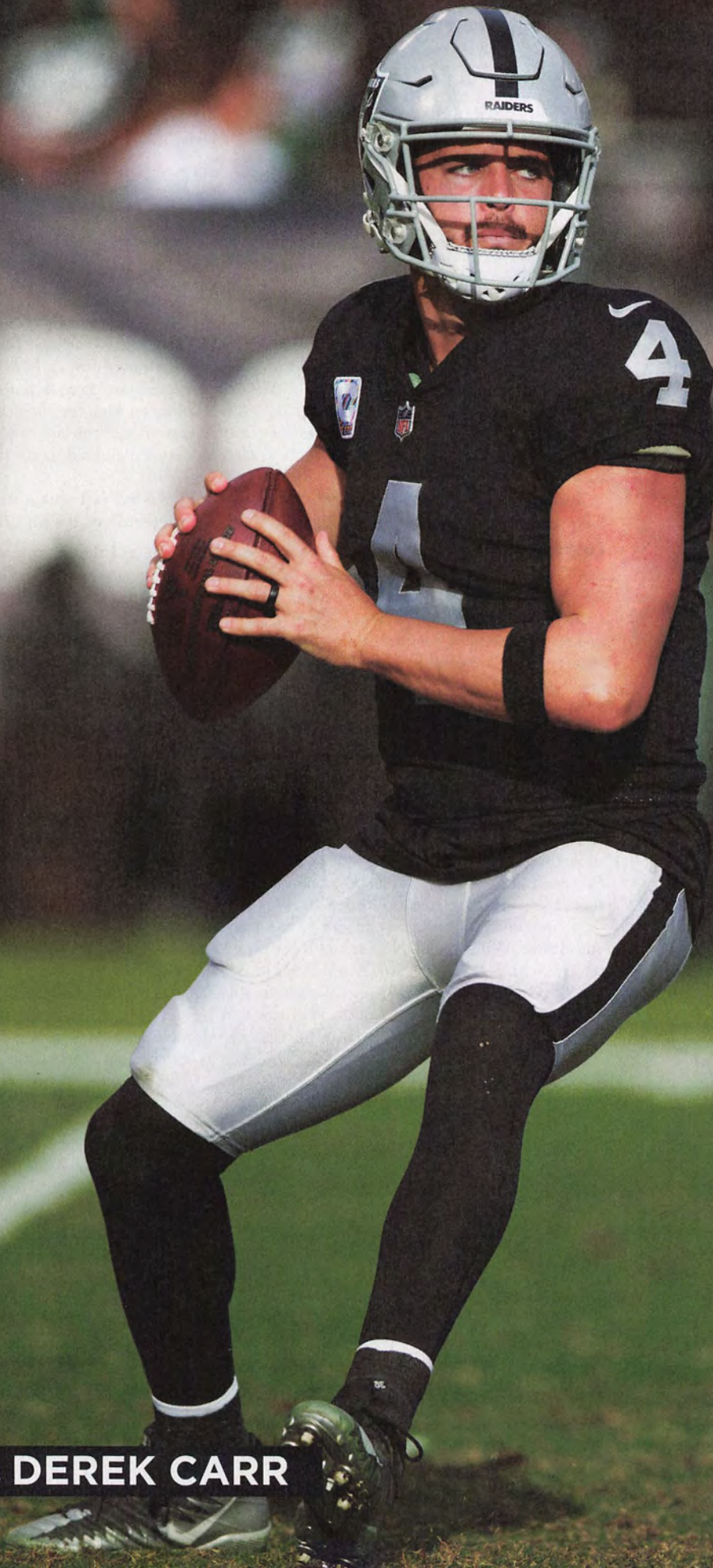
catches for 334 yards in 2018, and Nelson could face competition at slot receiver from fifth-round pick Hunter Renfrow. Whoever lines up at slot should benefit from the big-play potential of Brown and Williams outside.

Tight end Jared Cook, Oakland's leading receiver last season, left for the Saints in free agency. He was a focal point of the passing game partly due to the Raiders' lack of receivers, and his replacement likely won't have as many targets. Darren Waller will get the first shot after being signed off of Baltimore's practice squad last November. Waller, who was suspended in 2017 for violating the NFL's policy on substance abuse, had six catches for 75 yards

2019 Schedule

2018 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 9	Denver (Mon.)	10:20	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Sept. 15	Kansas City	4:05	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Sept. 22	at Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Sept. 29	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Oct. 6	vs. Chicago (London)	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
BYE							
Oct. 20	at Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Oct. 27	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4)
Nov. 3	Detroit	4:05	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 7	L.A. Chargers (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
Nov. 17	Cincinnati	4:25	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Nov. 24	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Dec. 1	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Dec. 8	Tennessee	4:25	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Dec. 15	Jacksonville	4:05	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)
Dec. 21/22	at L.A. Chargers	TBD	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
Dec. 29	at Denver	4:25	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)



QB **DEREK CARR**



2018 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 10	L.A. Rams	L	13-33
Sept. 16	at Denver	L	19-20
Sept. 23	at Miami	L	20-28
Sept. 30	Cleveland (ot)	W	45-42
Oct. 7	at L.A. Chargers	L	10-26
Oct. 14	Seattle	L	3-27
Oct. 28	Indianapolis	L	28-42
Nov. 1	at San Francisco	L	3-34
Nov. 11	L.A. Chargers	L	6-20
Nov. 18	at Arizona	W	23-21
Nov. 25	at Baltimore	L	17-34
Dec. 2	Kansas City	L	33-40
Dec. 9	Pittsburgh	W	24-21
Dec. 16	at Cincinnati	L	16-30
Dec. 24	Denver	W	27-14
Dec. 30	at Kansas City	L	3-35

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Derek Carr	553	381	4,049	19	10
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Doug Martin	172	723	4.2	4	
Marshawn Lynch	90	376	4.2	3	
Jalen Richard	55	259	4.7	1	
DeAndre Washington	30	115	3.8	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jared Cook	68	896	13.2	6	
Jordy Nelson	63	739	11.7	3	
Jalen Richard	68	607	8.9	0	
Seth Roberts	45	494	11.0	2	
Amari Cooper	22	280	12.7	1	

KICKING: Daniel Carlson, 16-17 FGs, 18-18 PAT, 66 points

TACKLES: Tahir Whitehead, 126; Marquel Lee, 68

SACKS: Maurice Hurst, 4.0; Bruce Irvin, 3.0

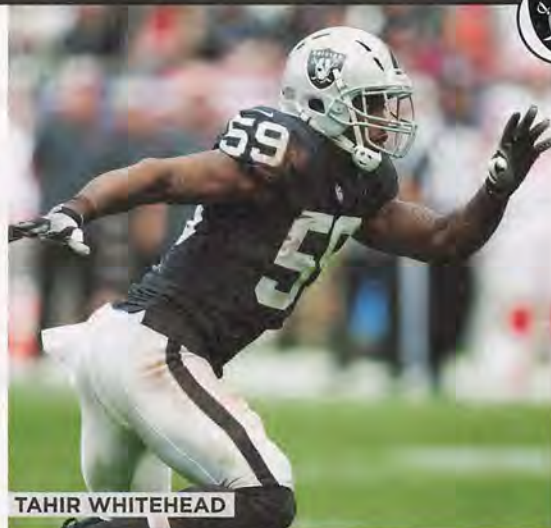
INTERCEPTIONS: Gareon Conley, 3; Marcus Gilchrist, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	336.2	23	10
Rushing	101.8	25	14
Passing	234.4	18	8
Scoring	18.1	28	14
Third Down %	37.1	19	9
Punt Returns	11.6	4	3
Kick Returns	22.9	15	9
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	AFC Rank
Total	381.4	26	12
Rushing	140.6	30	15
Passing	240.8	19	8
Scoring	29.2	32	16
Interceptions	14	14	9
Sacks	13	32	16
Turnover Differential	-7	26	13

last year. Mayock says he likes Waller's potential.

After allowing 52 sacks last season, tied for fifth most in the league, the offensive line remains somewhat unsettled. The Raiders made Trent Brown the highest-paid lineman in the NFL but haven't announced whether he'll play left or right tackle. Kolton Miller, last year's first-round pick, started at left tackle as a rookie and played through a knee injury. Brown was the starting left tackle for the Super Bowl champion Patriots. With former Pro Bowl left guard Kelechi Osemele traded to the Jets, the Raiders could move Gabe Jackson from right to left guard, with Denzelle Good as the other starter. But they haven't made that call, either. Center Rodney Hudson, their most consistent player for years, provides some continuity.



TAHIR WHITEHEAD

DEFENSE The Raiders allowed the most points in franchise history in 2018, so there were plenty of areas to improve. But the most glaring was their lack of a pass rush. The defense totaled an NFL-low 13 sacks and only one from an edge rusher — Arden Key — who's still on the roster. The Raiders hope Key added strength this offseason that will make him more effective. They also used their top draft pick on defensive end Clelin Ferrell, who will start immediately; added two other edge rushers in the late rounds; and signed free agents Benson Mayowa (four sacks in 2018) and Josh Mauro. Maurice Hurst, who had a team-high four sacks in 2018, returns as a disruptive starting 3-technique alongside nose tackle Justin Ellis, whose 2018 season was limited to six games by a foot injury in the opener. Defensive tackle Johnathan Hankins returns on a two-year deal, while 2018 second-round pick P.J. Hall remains in the interior rotation.

Oakland added experience at linebacker in free agents Vontaze Burfict and Brandon Marshall. The question is whether they can stay on the field. Burfict excelled in Raiders coordinator Paul Guenther's defense in Cincinnati but missed time to a hip issue and concussions last season and has been suspended in each of the last three seasons. Marshall missed time last season to a knee injury, and he'll be transitioning from a 3-4 defense in Denver to a 4-3. Burfict and Marshall could be competing for a spot. Tahir Whitehead played almost every defensive snap for the Raiders last season. No other linebacker played more than 44 percent of snaps as the Raiders often used a nickel defense. Marquel Lee started for part of 2018 at middle linebacker before ceding the spot to rookie Jason Cabinda.

Gareon Conley and Daryl Worley started most of last season at cornerback. That didn't stop the Raiders from drafting two corners in Trayvon Mullen and Isaiah Johnson (both 6'2") who Mayock says can both play the type of press coverage the Raiders prefer. Worley ended last season on injured reserve but is expected back healthy. The Raiders signed Lamaricus Joyner, who played free safety for the Rams, and plan to use him often at corner in their nickel defense. Nick Nelson did not seize that role last year. First-round pick Johnathan Abram, an effective defender against the run in college, fits best as a strong safety. The Raiders gave Abram the No. 24 jersey once worn by Charles Woodson. Karl Joseph started at strong safety during the second half of last season but could be moved around, while Erik Harris returns as a backup.

SPECIALISTS Signing rookie placekicker Daniel Carlson last October, after he was cut by Minnesota in Week 2, was one of the Raiders' best moves. Carlson converted 16-of-17 field goals tries and all 18 extra points with Oakland. Rookie punter Johnny Townsend was less consistent; his net average of 38.3 yards per punt ranked 29th in the NFL. Dwayne Harris should return kicks and punts again — his 14.1-yard average on punt returns ranked second in the NFL in 2018.

FINAL ANALYSIS Just nine of 50 players drafted under GM Reggie McKenzie from 2012-17 are still with the Raiders. Gruden has now had two offseasons and two drafts to fill a roster with the players he wants. He has been granted the time and authority to "build this team." Whatever happens this season likely won't change that. Players have expressed excitement and confidence in the team's culture and future. Gruden has, too, but he's been careful not to promise immediate results.



2019 VETERAN RAIDERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
4 Carr, Derek	QB	6-3	215	5	Fresno State	D2-14	D2-Oak-14
7 Glennon, Mike	QB	6-6	225	6	NC State	FA-Ari-19	D3-TB-13
2 Jones, Landry	QB	6-4	225	4	Oklahoma	FA-19	D4-Pit-13
18 Peterman, Nathan	QB	6-2	225	2	Pittsburgh	FA-18	D5-Buf-17
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
22 Crowell, Isaiah	RB	5-11	225	5	Alabama State	FA-NYJ-19	FA-Cle-14
28 Martin, Doug	RB	5-9	223	7	Boise State	FA-TB-18	D1b-TB-12
30 Richard, Jalen	RB	5-8	205	3	Southern Miss	FA-16	FA-Oak-16
41 Smith, Keith	FB	6-0	240	4	San Jose State	FA-Dal-18	FA-Dal-14
34 Warren III, Chris	RB	6-2	246	1	Texas	FA-18	FA-Oak-18
33 Washington, DeAndre	RB	5-8	205	3	Texas Tech	D5-16	D5-Oak-16
44 Yurachek, Ryan	FB	6-0	240	1	Marshall	FA-18	FA-NO-18
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
88 Ateman, Marcell	WR	6-4	216	1	Oklahoma State	D7-18	D7-Oak-18
80 Blacknall, Saeed	WR	6-2	208	1	Penn State	FA-18	FA-Oak-18
84 Brown, Antonio	WR	5-10	181	9	Central Michigan	T-Pit-19	D6b-Pit-10
12 Bryant, Martavis	WR	6-4	210	4	Clemson	T-Pit-18	D4-Pit-14
81 Butler, Paul	TE	6-6	252	1	California (PA)	FA-18	FA-Oak-18
85 Carrier, Derek	TE	6-4	244	6	Beloit	FA-LAR-18	FA-Oak-12
19 Grant, Ryan	WR	6-0	204	5	Tulane	FA-Ind-19	D5-Was-14
17 Harris, Dwayne	WR	5-11	206	8	East Carolina	FA-18	D6-Dal-11
14 Hatcher, Keon	WR	6-1	212	1	Arkansas	FA-18	FA-Oak-17
26 Holton, Johnny	WR	6-1	190	3	Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
15 Nelson, J.J.	WR	5-10	160	4	UAB	FA-Ari-19	D5b-Ari-15
86 Smith, Lee	TE	6-6	265	8	Marshall	FA-Buf-15	D5-NE-11
83 Waller, Darren	TE	6-6	255	3	Georgia Tech	FA-18	D6-Bal-15
16 Williams, Tyrell	WR	6-4	205	4	Western Oregon	FA-LAC-19	FA-LAC-15
82 Willson, Luke	TE	6-5	251	6	Rice	FA-Det-19	D5c-Sea-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Brown, Trent	G/T	6-8	380	4	Florida	FA-NE-19	D7a-SF-15
70 Devey, Jordan	G/C	6-6	320	5	Memphis	FA-KC-19	FA-Bal-13
69 Good, Denzelle	G/T	6-5	345	4	Mars Hill	W-Ind-18	D7-Ind-15
65 Green, Chaz	G	6-5	318	4	Florida	FA-18	D3-Dal-15
61 Hudson, Rodney	C	6-2	300	8	Florida State	FA-KC-15	D2-KC-11
66 Jackson, Gabe	G	6-3	335	5	Mississippi State	D3-14	D3-Oak-14
79 Kirkland, Denver	G/T	6-4	335	3	Arkansas	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
64 McGloster, Jamar	T	6-6	319	1	Syracuse	FA-18	FA-SF-18
77 Miller, Kolton	T	6-8	309	1	UCLA	D1-18	D1-Oak-18
71 Murray, Justin	T	6-5	304	1	Cincinnati	W-Cin-18	FA-Den-16
75 Parker, Brandon	T	6-8	305	1	North Carolina A&T	D3a-18	D3a-Oak-18
72 Sharpe, David	T	6-6	343	2	Florida	W-Hou-18	D4-Oak-17
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
93 Barrett, Alex	DE	6-3	260	1	San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Det-17
78 Ellis, Justin	DT	6-2	335	5	Louisiana Tech	D4a-14	D4a-Oak-14
92 Hall, P.J.	DT	6-1	308	1	Sam Houston St.	D2-18	D2-Oak-18
90 Hankins, Johnathan	DT	6-3	320	6	Ohio State	FA-18	D2-NYG-13
73 Hurst, Maurice	DT	6-1	291	1	Michigan	D5a-18	D5a-Oak-18
99 Key, Arden	DE	6-5	238	1	LSU	D3b-18	D3b-Oak-18
97 Mauro, Josh	DL	6-6	290	5	Stanford	FA-NYG-19	FA-Pit-14
Mayowa, Benson	DE	6-3	265	6	Idaho	FA-Ari-19	FA-Sea-13
94 Vanderdoes, Eddie	DT	6-3	305	2	UCLA	D3-17	D3-Oak-17
57 Wright, Gabe	DT	6-3	309	3	Auburn	FA-18	D4-Det-15
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
51 Burfict, Vontaze	LB	6-1	255	7	Arizona State	FA-Cin-19	FA-Cin-12
53 Cabinda, Jason	LB	6-1	243	1	Penn State	FA-18	FA-Oak-18
49 Cowser, James	LB	6-3	245	3	Southern Utah	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
55 Lee, Marquel	LB	6-3	235	2	Wake Forest	D5-17	D5-Oak-17
54 Marshall, Brandon	LB	6-1	250	7	Nevada	FA-Den-19	D5-Jac-12
50 Morrow, Nicholas	LB	6-0	224	2	Greenville	FA-17	FA-Oak-17
59 Whitehead, Tahir	LB	6-2	241	7	Temple	FA-Det-18	D5a-Det-12
58 Wilber, Kyle	LB	6-4	245	7	Wake Forest	FA-Dal-18	D4a-Dal-12
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
21 Conley, Gareon	CB	6-0	195	2	Ohio State	D1-17	D1-Oak-17
35 Dorleant, Makinton	CB	5-11	182	1	Northern Iowa	FA-18	FA-GB-16
38 Gafford, Rico	DB	5-10	184	1	Wyoming	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
25 Harris, Erik	S	6-3	225	3	California (PA)	FA-17	FA-NO-16
42 Joseph, Karl	S	5-10	205	3	West Virginia	D1-16	D1-Oak-16
29 Joyner, Lamarcus	S	5-8	191	5	Florida State	FA-LAR-19	D2-LAR-14
26 Lawson, Nevin	CB	5-9	192	5	Utah State	FA-Det-19	D4b-Det-14
32 Leavitt, Dallin	S	5-10	203	1	Utah State	FA-18	FA-Oak-18
36 Meander, Montrel	CB	6-2	215	1	Grambling State	FA-18	FA-Cle-18
23 Nelson, Nick	CB	5-11	200	1	Wisconsin	D4-18	D4-Oak-18
35 Riley, Curtis	S	6-0	203	3	Fresno State	FA-NYG-19	FA-Ten-15
39 Richards, Jordan	S	5-11	210	4	Stanford	FA-Atl-19	D2-NE-15
20 Worley, Daryl	CB	6-1	205	3	West Virginia	FA-Phi-18	D3-Car-16
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
8 Carlson, Daniel	K	6-5	213	1	Auburn	FA-18	D5-Min-18
48 DePaola, Andrew	LS	6-2	230	5	Rutgers	FA-Chi-18	FA-TB-12
3 Kaser, Drew	P	6-2	206	3	Texas A&M	FA-19	D6-LAC-16
47 Sieg, Trent	LS	6-3	240	1	Colorado State	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
5 Townsend, Johnny	P	6-1	210	1	Florida	D5b-18	D5b-Oak-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	84	Antonio Brown	88	Marcell Ateman
WR	16	Tyrell Williams	15	J.J. Nelson
LT	77	Kolton Miller	72	David Sharpe
LG	69	Denzelle Good	70	Jordan Devey
C	61	Rodney Hudson	70	Jordan Devey
RG	66	Gabe Jackson	65	Chaz Green
RT		Trent Brown	75	Brandon Parker
TE	83	Darren Waller	85	Derek Carrier
QB	4	Derek Carr	7	Mike Glennon
FB	41	Keith Smith		
RB	28	Josh Jacobs (R)	30	Jalen Richard

DEFENSE

DE	96	Clelin Ferrell (R)	98	Maxx Crosby (R)
DT	78	Justin Ellis	90	Johnathan Hankins
DT	73	Maurice Hurst	92	P.J. Hall
DE	99	Arden Key		Benson Mayowa
MLB	59	Tahir Whitehead	53	Jason Cabinda
OLB	51	Vontaze Burfict	54	Brandon Marshall
NB	26	Nevin Lawson		
CB	21	Gareon Conley	27	Trayvon Mullen (R)
CB	20	Daryl Worley	31	Isaiah Johnson (R)
FS	29	Lamarcus Joyner	25	Erik Harris
SS	42	Karl Joseph	24	Johnathan Abram (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	8	Daniel Carlson	KR	17	Dwayne Harris
P	5	Johnny Townsend	PR	17	Dwayne Harris

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
WR	Antonio Brown	Pittsburgh
OT	Trent Brown	New England
LB	Vontaze Burfict	Cincinnati
S	Lamarcus Joyner	L.A. Rams
LB	Brandon Marshall	Denver
DE	Benson Mayowa	Arizona
WR	J.J. Nelson	Arizona
WR	Tyrell Williams	L.A. Chargers

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
TE	Jared Cook	New Orleans
S	Marcus Gilchrist	Free Agent
RB	Marshawn Lynch	Free Agent
CB	Rashaan Melvin	Detroit
WR	Jordy Nelson	Retired
OG	Kelechi Osemele	N.Y. Jets
OT	Donald Penn	Free Agent
DE	Frostee Rucker	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE RAIDERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP OAKLAND "The 2018 Raiders made their fans wish for the Jack Del Rio era as Jon Gruden dismantled the roster he inherited. While Gruden and Derek Carr received the most criticism, it was really turnovers and a poor defense that did them in. Carr's numbers were better than his actual on-field play, but he is Gruden's guy. ... For the second straight offseason, they had a receiver makeover. In comes Antonio Brown, Tyrell Williams and J.J. Nelson, but the question remains: Can they get on the same page with Carr in a complicated, wordy offense? ... Trent Brown signed the largest offensive lineman contract in league history, and prior to his playoff run with the Patriots, he was just a guy with size and potential. Much will be expected of Kolton Miller at right tackle, but they can definitely count on center Rodney Hudson. ... They love Josh Jacobs and expect him to spark the run game. ... GM Mike Mayock will prove his worth by fixing one of the league's worst defenses. He reached on Clelin Ferrell, but at worst, he should be a consistent three-down end. ... Maurice Hurst was solid as a rookie, but P.J. Hall proved that he was an over-drafted, small-school project. Tahir Whitehead is an active run-and-hit linebacker, but this is still their weakest unit. ... Gareon Conley had a decent season, but they hope Trayvon Mullen will grow up fast. Karl Joseph can be explosive as a downhill safety, yet they selected Johnathan Abram, who is cut from the same cloth. ... When your rookie specialists were the strength of the team, that tells you this organization has a long way to go."



Raiders IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Clelin Ferrell	DE	6-4	267	Clemson
1.	Josh Jacobs	RB	5-10	219	Alabama
1.	Johnathan Abram	S	6-0	215	Mississippi State
2.	Trayvon Mullen	CB	6-2	199	Clemson
4.	Maxx Crosby	DE	6-5	247	Eastern Michigan
4.	Isaiah Johnson	CB	6-2	208	Houston
4.	Foster Moreau	TE	6-4	253	LSU
5.	Hunter Renfrow	WR	5-10	185	Clemson
7.	Quinton Bell	DE	6-4	253	Prairie View A&M

Clelin Ferrell will start immediately on a defense that totaled a league-low 13 sacks in 2018. The Raiders drafted Ferrell No. 4 overall with pass rushers Josh Allen, Ed Oliver and Rashan Gary still available. Josh Jacobs could emerge as the lead back but must show he can handle the workload after totaling 251 carries in three college seasons. Johnathan Abram will compete for snaps at safety, especially when free agent signing Lamarcus Joyner shifts to nickel cornerback. Trayvon Mullen and Isaiah Johnson likely enter as backups to Daryl Worley and Gareon Conley. But it's no mystery why the Raiders used three picks on their secondary — they allowed the fourth-highest passer rating and most passing touchdowns in the NFL last season.

Outside the Huddle

FRESH START Antonio Brown, who criticized the Steelers and Ben Roethlisberger on his way out of Pittsburgh, projected positivity upon arriving in Oakland. A day before his trade became official, Brown visited Derek Carr at the quarterback's house and ran routes with Carr at a local park. Brown says he thinks that playing with Carr will be "refreshing" and that the two are "just hungry for the same things."

PLAYING SAFE Carr had a rocky start to his first season in Gruden's system — his fourth in five years — with eight interceptions in five games. After that, Carr says, he placed an emphasis on making fewer high-risk throws. Starting in Week 5, Carr attempted 332 consecutive passes without an interception, a franchise record. His streak ended in the season finale at Kansas City.

LOFTY GOAL Brown says his career objective is to "catch Jerry Rice." Brown is the first receiver in NFL history with six consecutive seasons of 100-plus catches — but he has a long way to go to match Rice's career numbers. Brown ranks 28th on the all-time list with 837 receptions and 34th with 11,207 receiving yards. Rice leads both categories with 1,549 catches and 22,895 yards.

IN HONOR Tackle Trent Brown dedicated his Raiders contract, the largest given to an offensive lineman, to former Oakland linebacker Neiron Ball. A 2015 fifth-round pick, Ball suffered a brain aneurysm last year that left him in a medically induced coma. Brown, who called Ball his "best friend," posted a message on social media after signing with Oakland: "Don't worry bro I'm going to finish everything you started."

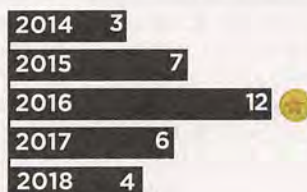
ADDED INCENTIVE Trent Brown's contract was an example of the Raiders factoring their move to Las Vegas into free agency negotiation. Brown's deal guarantees him more than \$36 million, with the majority of that (\$21.5 million) due in 2020. That coincides with the team's scheduled move from California, where income is taxed up to 13 percent, to Nevada, where income is not taxed.

BEAST MODE The Raiders never explicitly ruled out re-signing Marshawn Lynch for one more season in Oakland. But they signaled a readiness to move on by drafting Josh Jacobs from Alabama and re-signing Doug Martin (after Isaiah Crowell went down with an injury). Lynch, who ranks 29th all time in rushing yards, missed the last 10 games of last season with a groin injury and has not said whether he will play in 2019.

BAD BLOOD New Raiders linebacker Vontaze Burfict concussed Antonio Brown with a hit to the helmet in 2016. The two have had run-ins since. But Burfict says they shouldn't have a problem being on the same team. "He's a great player," Burfict said in March. "He's going to be in the Hall of Fame one day. ... We might be the closest friends on the team, you know what I mean?"

TOUGH STRETCH The Raiders are one of two teams that will go 49 days between true home games this season. They play the Chiefs at home Sept. 15 and don't play again at the Coliseum until Nov. 3. In the interim, they play the Bears in London as the designated "home" team. Gruden wryly notes that, "The league did a good job challenging us with our schedule."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

13

The Raiders sacked opposing quarterbacks just 13 times, 17 fewer than 31st-place Patriots. Think Khalil Mack was missed?

2.61

Oakland allowed a league-worst 2.61 points per defensive drive.

6.7

Derek Carr finished tied for last in the NFL with just 6.7 intended air yards per pass.

2019

NFL

Schedules

WEEK 1

Thursday, Sept. 5

Green Bay at Chicago

Sunday, Sept. 8

L.A. Rams at Carolina
Tennessee at Cleveland
Kansas City at Jacksonville
Baltimore at Miami
Atlanta at Minnesota
Buffalo at N.Y. Jets
Washington at Philadelphia

Indianapolis at L.A. Chargers
Cincinnati at Seattle
Detroit at Arizona
N.Y. Giants at Dallas
San Francisco at Tampa Bay
Pittsburgh at New England

Monday, Sept. 9

Houston at New Orleans
Denver at Oakland

WEEK 2

Thursday, Sept. 12

Tampa Bay at Carolina

Sunday, Sept. 15

Arizona at Baltimore
San Francisco at Cincinnati
L.A. Chargers at Detroit
Minnesota at Green Bay
Jacksonville at Houston
New England at Miami
Buffalo at N.Y. Giants
Seattle at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Dallas at Washington
Kansas City at Oakland
Chicago at Denver
New Orleans at L.A. Rams
Philadelphia at Atlanta

Monday, Sept. 16

Cleveland at N.Y. Jets

WEEK 3

Thursday, Sept. 19

Tennessee at Jacksonville

Sunday, Sept. 22

Cincinnati at Buffalo
Miami at Dallas
Denver at Green Bay
Atlanta at Indianapolis
Baltimore at Kansas City
Oakland at Minnesota
N.Y. Jets at New England
Detroit at Philadelphia
Carolina at Arizona
N.Y. Giants at Tampa Bay
Houston at L.A. Chargers
New Orleans at Seattle
Pittsburgh at San Francisco
L.A. Rams at Cleveland

Monday, Sept. 23

Chicago at Washington

WEEK 4

Thursday, Sept. 26

Philadelphia at Green Bay

Sunday, Sept. 29

Tennessee at Atlanta
Cleveland at Baltimore
New England at Buffalo
Kansas City at Detroit
Carolina at Houston
Oakland at Indianapolis
L.A. Chargers at Miami
Washington at N.Y. Giants
Seattle at Arizona
Tampa Bay at L.A. Rams
Minnesota at Chicago
Jacksonville at Denver
Dallas at New Orleans

Monday, Sept. 30

Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

Bye: N.Y. Jets, San Francisco

WEEK 5

Thursday, Oct. 3

L.A. Rams at Seattle

Sunday, Oct. 6

Jacksonville at Carolina
Arizona at Cincinnati
Atlanta at Houston
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Minnesota at N.Y. Giants
Chicago vs. Oakland (London)
N.Y. Jets at Philadelphia
Baltimore at Pittsburgh
Buffalo at Tennessee
New England at Washington
Denver at L.A. Chargers
Green Bay at Dallas
Indianapolis at Kansas City

Monday, Oct. 7

Cleveland at San Francisco

Bye: Detroit, Miami

WEEK 6

Thursday, Oct. 10

N.Y. Giants at New England

Sunday, Oct. 13

Carolina vs. Tampa Bay (London)
Cincinnati at Baltimore
Seattle at Cleveland
New Orleans at Jacksonville
Houston at Kansas City
Washington at Miami
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Atlanta at Arizona
San Francisco at L.A. Rams
Tennessee at Denver
Dallas at N.Y. Jets
Pittsburgh at L.A. Chargers

Monday, Oct. 14

Detroit at Green Bay

Bye: Buffalo, Chicago, Indianapolis, Oakland

WEEK 7

Thursday, Oct. 17

Kansas City at Denver

Sunday, Oct. 20

L.A. Rams at Atlanta
Miami at Buffalo
Jacksonville at Cincinnati
Minnesota at Detroit
Oakland at Green Bay
Houston at Indianapolis
Arizona at N.Y. Giants
San Francisco at Washington
L.A. Chargers at Tennessee
New Orleans at Chicago
Baltimore at Seattle
Philadelphia at Dallas

Monday, Oct. 21

New England at N.Y. Jets

Bye: Carolina, Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Tampa Bay

WEEK 8

Thursday, Oct. 24

Washington at Minnesota

Sunday, Oct. 27

Seattle at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Buffalo
L.A. Chargers at Chicago
N.Y. Giants at Detroit
Oakland at Houston
N.Y. Jets at Jacksonville
Cincinnati vs. L.A. Rams (London)
Arizona at New Orleans
Tampa Bay at Tennessee
Carolina at San Francisco
Denver at Indianapolis
Cleveland at New England
Green Bay at Kansas City

Monday, Oct. 28

Miami at Pittsburgh

Bye: Baltimore, Dallas

WEEK 9

Thursday, Oct. 31

San Francisco at Arizona

Sunday, Nov. 3

Houston vs. Jacksonville (London)
Washington at Buffalo
Tennessee at Carolina
Minnesota at Kansas City
N.Y. Jets at Miami
Chicago at Philadelphia
Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
Detroit at Oakland
Tampa Bay at Seattle
Cleveland at Denver
Green Bay at L.A. Chargers
New England at Baltimore

Monday, Nov. 4

Dallas at N.Y. Giants

Bye: Atlanta, Cincinnati, L.A. Rams, New Orleans

WEEK 10

Thursday, Nov. 7

L.A. Chargers at Oakland

Sunday, Nov. 10

Detroit at Chicago

Baltimore at Cincinnati

Buffalo at Cleveland

Carolina at Green Bay

Atlanta at New Orleans

N.Y. Giants at N.Y. Jets

Arizona at Tampa Bay

Kansas City at Tennessee

Miami at Indianapolis

L.A. Rams at Pittsburgh

Minnesota at Dallas

Monday, Nov. 11

Seattle at San Francisco

Bye: Denver, Houston, Jacksonville,
New England, Philadelphia, Washington

WEEK 11

Thursday, Nov. 14

Pittsburgh at Cleveland

Sunday, Nov. 17

Houston at Baltimore

Atlanta at Carolina

Dallas at Detroit

Jacksonville at Indianapolis

Buffalo at Miami

Denver at Minnesota

New Orleans at Tampa Bay

N.Y. Jets at Washington

Arizona at San Francisco

Cincinnati at Oakland

New England at Philadelphia

Chicago at L.A. Rams

Monday, Nov. 18

Kansas City vs. L.A.

Chargers (Mexico City)

Bye: Green Bay, N.Y. Giants, Seattle,
Tennessee

WEEK 12

Thursday, Nov. 21

Indianapolis at Houston

Sunday, Nov. 24

Tampa Bay at Atlanta

Denver at Buffalo

N.Y. Giants at Chicago

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati

Miami at Cleveland

Carolina at New Orleans

Oakland at N.Y. Jets

Detroit at Washington

Jacksonville at Tennessee

Dallas at New England

Green Bay at San Francisco

Seattle at Philadelphia

Monday, Nov. 25

Baltimore at L.A. Rams

Bye: Arizona, Kansas City, L.A. Chargers,
Minnesota

WEEK 13

Thursday, Nov. 28

Chicago at Detroit

Buffalo at Dallas

New Orleans at Atlanta

Sunday, Dec. 1

San Francisco at Baltimore

Washington at Carolina

N.Y. Jets at Cincinnati

Tennessee at Indianapolis

Tampa Bay at Jacksonville

Oakland at Kansas City

Philadelphia at Miami

Green Bay at N.Y. Giants

L.A. Rams at Arizona

L.A. Chargers at Denver

Cleveland at Pittsburgh

New England at Houston

Monday, Dec. 2

Minnesota at Seattle

WEEK 14

Thursday, Dec. 5

Dallas at Chicago

Sunday, Dec. 8

Carolina at Atlanta

Baltimore at Buffalo

Cincinnati at Cleveland

Washington at Green Bay

Denver at Houston

Detroit at Minnesota

San Francisco at

New Orleans

Miami at N.Y. Jets

Indianapolis at Tampa Bay

L.A. Chargers at

Jacksonville

Pittsburgh at Arizona

Kansas City at

New England

Tennessee at Oakland

Seattle at L.A. Rams

Monday, Dec. 9

N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia

WEEK 15

Thursday, Dec. 12

N.Y. Jets at Baltimore

Sunday, Dec. 15

Seattle at Carolina

New England at Cincinnati

Tampa Bay at Detroit

Chicago at Green Bay

Denver at Kansas City

Miami at N.Y. Giants

Buffalo at Pittsburgh

Houston at Tennessee

Philadelphia at Washington

Cleveland at Arizona

Jacksonville at Oakland

L.A. Rams at Dallas

Atlanta at San Francisco

Minnesota at L.A. Chargers

Monday, Dec. 16

Indianapolis at New Orleans

WEEK 16

Saturday/Sunday,

Dec. 21/22

Detroit at Denver

Oakland at L.A. Chargers

Buffalo at New England

L.A. Rams at San Francisco

Houston at Tampa Bay

Sunday, Dec. 22

Jacksonville at Atlanta

Baltimore at Cleveland

Carolina at Indianapolis

Cincinnati at Miami

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Jets

New Orleans at Tennessee

N.Y. Giants at Washington

Dallas at Philadelphia

Arizona at Seattle

Kansas City at Chicago

Monday, Dec. 23

Green Bay at Minnesota

WEEK 17

Sunday, Dec. 29

Pittsburgh at Baltimore

N.Y. Jets at Buffalo

New Orleans at Carolina

Cleveland at Cincinnati

Washington at Dallas

Green Bay at Detroit

Tennessee at Houston

Indianapolis at Jacksonville

L.A. Chargers at Kansas City

Chicago at Minnesota

Miami at New England

Philadelphia at N.Y. Giants

Atlanta at Tampa Bay

Oakland at Denver

Arizona at L.A. Rams

San Francisco at Seattle

NFL POSTSEASON

**Saturday, Jan. 4 and
Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020**

AFC and NFC Wild Card Playoffs
(ESPN, CBS, FOX, NBC)

**Saturday, Jan. 11 and
Sunday, Jan. 12, 2020**

AFC and NFC Divisional Playoffs
(CBS, FOX, NBC)

Sunday, Jan. 19, 2020

AFC and NFC Championship Games
(CBS, FOX)

Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020

Super Bowl LIV

Hard Rock Stadium

Miami Gardens, FL (FOX)



2019

NFC

Predictions



NFC Playoff Seedings

1. Chicago
2. L.A. Rams
3. New Orleans
4. Dallas
5. Philadelphia
6. Minnesota

Wild Card

New Orleans over Minnesota
Dallas over Philadelphia

Divisional Round

Chicago over Dallas
L.A. Rams over New Orleans

NFC Championship

Chicago over L.A. Rams

Super Bowl LIV

Kansas City over Chicago

Athlon Sports

NFC Power Rankings

1. Chicago
2. L.A. Rams
3. New Orleans
4. Dallas
5. Philadelphia
6. Minnesota
7. Atlanta
8. Seattle
9. Tampa Bay
10. Carolina
11. Green Bay
12. San Francisco
13. N.Y. Giants
14. Washington
15. Detroit
16. Arizona

NFC EAST

1. DALLAS COWBOYS

The Cowboys are young and talented — but are they good enough to win it all?

2. PHILADELPHIA EAGLES

Nick Foles is no longer around for a late-season playoff push.

3. NEW YORK GIANTS

The Giants maintain that they aren't rebuilding. It sure looks like they are.

4. WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Dwayne Haskins is the QB of the future in D.C. Will that future start in Week 1?

NFC NORTH

1. CHICAGO BEARS

The Bears have everything in place to make a deep postseason run.

2. MINNESOTA VIKINGS

Kirk Cousins puts up big numbers. Now he needs to win some playoff games.

3. GREEN BAY PACKERS

Aaron Rodgers is still elite — but the rest of the roster is rather average.

4. DETROIT LIONS

The first year of the Matt Patricia era was rather underwhelming.

NFC SOUTH

1. NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

The Saints are eager to take the next step after yet another painful playoff loss.

2. ATLANTA FALCONS

Few teams were hit by injuries as hard as Atlanta in 2018. This team has talent.

3. TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

The Bucs could emerge as a surprise contender with Bruce Arians now in charge.

4. CAROLINA PANTHERS

The Panthers always have a chance with (a healthy) Cam Newton running the show.

NFC WEST

1. LOS ANGELES RAMS

The status of Todd Gurley's knee is one of the biggest storylines in the NFL.

2. SEATTLE SEAHAWKS

The Seahawks have remained relevant while overhauling their roster.

3. SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS

The 49ers could be in the wild card chase if Jimmy G can stay healthy.

4. ARIZONA CARDINALS

The Kliff Kingsbury-Kyler Murray marriage will be fun to watch.



Khalil Mack

Mack, Nagy: AP

NFC Coordinator Carousel

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Mike McCoy

New: Kliff Kingsbury/Tom Clements
The Cardinals offense will be firmly in the hands of its new head coach, who will attempt to live up to his reputation as an offensive savant. Clements, who will serve as passing game coordinator and QB coach, saw an 11-year stint with the Packers end after the 2016 season. He will be Kingsbury's highest-ranking offensive assistant.

ARIZONA CARDINALS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Al Holcomb

New: Vance Joseph

Joseph returns to his defensive roots after a failed two-year run as Broncos head coach. In his sole season as an NFL coordinator (2016), Joseph oversaw a Dolphins defense that was among the league's best at creating negative plays, forcing the fourth-most turnovers in the NFL during a 9-2 run to close the season.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Steve Sarkisian

New: Dirk Koetter

Koetter is another fired head coach who is benefiting from the NFL's commitment to recycling. After posting a 19-29 record in three seasons in Tampa, Koetter is returning to Atlanta for a second tour of duty with QB Matt Ryan as Falcons coordinator, taking over an offense that has stumbled through two seasons of inconsistency since the franchise's Super Bowl appearance.

ATLANTA FALCONS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Marquand Manuel

New: Dan Quinn

This one falls under the category of "If you want something done right..." Quinn, the head coach in Atlanta, fired Manuel after the Falcons' 7-9 season and installed himself as the defensive coordinator, a position he held in Seattle (2013-14) and at the University of Florida (2011-12). Quinn's 2013 Super Bowl-winning defense was the first since the '85 Bears to lead the NFL in fewest points allowed, fewest yards allowed and most takeaways.

CHICAGO BEARS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Vic Fangio

New: Chuck Pagano

The former head man in Indianapolis,

Pagano inherits one of the NFL's best defenses from Fangio, now the head coach in Denver. Pagano spent a successful season as Ravens defensive coordinator in 2011, leading Baltimore's defense to a third-place finish in both yards allowed and points allowed, and he's set up to succeed with a Bears unit led by Khalil Mack.

DALLAS COWBOYS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Scott Linehan

New: Kellen Moore

This is one of the more intriguing offseason hires, as Moore ascends to the coordinator job after a single season as Dak Prescott's position coach. If anyone can maximize Prescott's strengths, it's Moore, who is not far removed from holding the clipboard as Dak's backup and who earned his QB's trust in 2018.

DETROIT LIONS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Jim Bob Cooter

New: Darrell Bevell

Bevell brings a boatload of experience after 12 seasons as an offensive coordinator in Minnesota (2006-10) and Seattle (2011-17). A largely successful run in the Pacific Northwest was tarnished by a questionable play call on the goal line Seattle's Super Bowl XLIX loss to New England. After a year out of the NFL, Bevell will try to reignite his career in Motown.

GREEN BAY PACKERS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Joe Philbin

New: Nathaniel Hackett

The offensive coordinator in Jacksonville from 2016-18, Hackett looked like a rising star when the Jags led the NFL in rushing in 2017 only to be purged during the following season's backslide. Hackett's new boss in Green Bay, head coach Matt LaFleur, was the offensive coordinator in Tennessee, so it will be interesting to see just how much control over the Packers offense Hackett will be allowed to exert.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Todd Monken

New: Byron Leftwich

The fast-rising Leftwich is only three years removed from an internship with the Cardinals that was his first introduction to coaching at any level. The former QB for the Jags, Falcons, Steelers and Bucs, Leftwich spent part of last season as the

Offensive Player of the Year

Ezekiel Elliott, RB, Dallas

Defensive Player of the Year

Khalil Mack, OLB, Chicago

Comeback Player of the Year

Jimmy Garoppolo, San Francisco

Offensive Rookie of the Year

Deebo Samuel, WR, San Francisco

Defensive Rookie of the Year

Devin White, LB, Tampa Bay

Coach of the Year

Matt Nagy, Chicago



offensive coordinator for the Cards but was fired as part of a staff purge in Phoenix.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Defensive Coordinator

Old: Mike Smith

New: Todd Bowles

Bowles' tenure as Jets head coach began with a promising 10-6 record in 2015 before spiraling into injury- and personnel-fueled dysfunction. Bowles enjoyed some success as a defensive coordinator in Arizona, earning AP NFL Assistant Coach of the Year honors in 2014 after fielding the league's fifth-ranked defense.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS

Offensive Coordinator

Old: Matt Cavanaugh

New: Kevin O'Connell

O'Connell earned a promotion from QB coach/passing game coordinator to offensive coordinator after former coordinator Cavanaugh was kicked upstairs to a "senior offensive assistant" role. Head coach Jay Gruden is an obvious fan of O'Connell's, locking him in with a promotion to prevent his poaching by another franchise.



Dallas COWBOYS

NFC East Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/President/General Manager: Jerry Jones
COO/Executive VP/Director of Player Personnel: Stephen Jones
VP of Player Personnel: Will McClay
Senior Director of Football Administration: Todd Williams
Stadium: AT&T Stadium (80,000)
Surface: Hellas SoftTop Turf
Website: www.dallascowboys.com
Tickets: 817-892-5000
Training Camp: River Ridge Playing Fields (Oxnard, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Jason Garrett
Record With Team: 77-59
Career Record: 77-59
Offensive Coordinator: Kellen Moore
Defensive Coordinator/DL: Rod Marinelli
Special Teams Coordinator: Keith O'Quinn
Quarterbacks: Jon Kitna
Running Backs: Gary Brown
Wide Receivers: Sanjay Lal
Tight Ends: Doug Nussmeier
Offensive Line: Marc Colombo
Defensive Tackles: Leon Lett
Linebackers: Ben Bloom
Passing Game Coordinator/DBs: Kris Richard
Safeties: Greg Jackson

The Cowboys are young — one of the youngest teams in the NFL. Amari Cooper is 25. Ezekiel Elliott is 23. Dak Prescott is 25. Jaylon Smith is 24. Leighton Vander Esch is 23. Byron Jones is 26. Demarcus Lawrence is 27. Zack Martin is 28. The window is wide open for the Cowboys. Their future is bright.

But Cowboys owner Jerry Jones is 76, and, as he frequently says, he doesn't have time to have a bad time. "There is absolutely nothing, short of the health and goodwill of the people I care about, there's nothing that means more to me than if I could get a Super Bowl. Nothing," Jones says. "... The hunger is for what we're talking about right now — winning a Super Bowl. Not to get another billion dollars."

Why not the Cowboys? All 22 players who started in their divisional playoff game last season are back. Plus, 11-time Pro Bowl tight end Jason Witten and four-time Pro Bowl center Travis Frederick return. The Cowboys also added receiver Randall Cobb and defensive end Robert Quinn in the offseason. Their mantra for this season is "Driven." They are "Driven" to get where they haven't gone since 1995.

OFFENSE It's not always pretty, but Prescott has won early and often in his career. He is 32-16 in the regular season, with a career passer rating of 96.0 and two Pro Bowl trips. The Cowboys trust in Prescott as their quarterback for now and for the future. Prescott has a new position coach in former Cowboys backup quarterback Jon Kitna, with Prescott's former backup, Kellen Moore, moving to offensive coordinator. Cooper Rush and Mike White remain behind Prescott, who has never missed a start in three seasons.

Elliott became one of the NFL's best backs the day the Cowboys drafted him fourth overall. Elliott has 4,048 career yards, leading the league in rushing in 2016 and 2018, with a six-game NFL suspension in 2017 preventing him from making it three for three. The Cowboys got Elliott more involved in the passing game last season. He had more receptions (77) than his first two years combined (58), almost as many yards with 567, and his three receiving TDs matched his previous career total. Elliott is a three-down back, and as he goes, the Cowboys offense goes. Dallas drafted Tony Pollard and Mike Weber to back up Elliott. Pollard is a versatile player who also can play receiver and will factor in the return game, while Weber is a more traditional three-down back. Fullback Jamize Olawale played 10.6 percent of the offensive snaps last season, mostly on short yardage.

The Cowboys believed a receiver-by-committee approach would work after they cut No. 1 receiver Dez Bryant during the 2018 offseason. They were wrong. To their credit, they corrected their mistake at the trade deadline, acquiring Cooper from Oakland. Cooper revived the team's offense and quickly became Prescott's favorite target. The Cowboys

lost Cole Beasley in free agency to Buffalo, but they signed Cobb, whom they expect to be as good as or better than Beasley in the slot. Michael Gallup is expected to start opposite Cooper after showing great promise as a rookie. Allen Hurns will compete to find a role this season, along with Noah Brown and Cedrick Wilson.

Witten is back, with less hair, unretiring after one season in the broadcast booth. Witten will play only around 25 snaps per game, so his contribution as a leader in the locker room and meeting room could prove even bigger than his numbers on the field. His return should not hinder the development of the team's other tight ends, Blake Jarwin, Dalton

2019 Schedule

2018 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	N.Y. Giants	4:25	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Sept. 15	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Sept. 22	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Sept. 29	at New Orleans	8:20	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Oct. 6	Green Bay	4:25	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Oct. 13	at N.Y. Jets	4:25	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Oct. 20	Philadelphia	8:20	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
BYE							
Nov. 4	at N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:15	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Nov. 10	Minnesota	8:20	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Nov. 17	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 24	at New England	4:25	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Nov. 28	Buffalo (Thu.)	4:30	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Dec. 5	at Chicago (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Dec. 15	L.A. Rams	4:25	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Dec. 22	at Philadelphia	4:25	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Dec. 29	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)



RB **EZEKIEL ELLIOTT**



2018 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 9	at Carolina	L	8-16
Sept. 16	N.Y. Giants	W	20-13
Sept. 23	at Seattle	L	13-24
Sept. 30	Detroit	W	26-24
Oct. 7	at Houston (ot)	L	16-19
Oct. 14	Jacksonville	W	40-7
Oct. 21	at Washington	L	17-20
Nov. 5	Tennessee	L	14-28
Nov. 11	at Philadelphia	W	27-20
Nov. 18	at Atlanta	W	22-19
Nov. 22	Washington	W	31-23
Nov. 29	New Orleans	W	13-10
Dec. 9	Philadelphia (ot)	W	29-23
Dec. 16	at Indianapolis	L	0-23
Dec. 23	Tampa Bay	W	27-20
Dec. 30	at N.Y. Giants	W	36-35
Postseason			
Jan. 5	Seattle	W	24-22
Jan. 12	at L.A. Rams	L	22-30

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Dak Prescott	526	356	3,885	22	8
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Ezekiel Elliot	304	1,434	4.7	6	
Dak Prescott	75	305	4.1	6	
Rod Smith	44	127	2.9	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Amari Cooper	53	725	13.7	6	
Cole Beasley	65	672	10.3	3	
Ezekiel Elliot	77	567	7.4	3	
Michael Gallup	33	507	15.4	2	
Blake Jarwin	27	307	11.4	3	
Allen Hurns	20	295	14.8	2	

KICKING: Brett Maher, 29-36 FGs, 32-33 PAT, 119 points

TACKLES: Leighton Vander Esch, 140; Jaylon Smith, 121

SACKS: Demarcus Lawrence, 10.5; Randy Gregory, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Leighton Vander Esch, 2; Xavier Woods, 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	343.8	22	13
Rushing	122.7	10	5
Passing	221.1	23	13
Scoring	21.2	22	13
Third Down %	41.4	10	6
Punt Returns	5.7	T30	T15
Kick Returns	21.8	20	10

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	329.3	7	3
Rushing	94.6	5	3
Passing	234.7	13	7
Scoring	20.2	6	2
Interceptions	9	T26	T11
Sacks	39	T16	11
Turnover Differential	+3	12	6

Schultz and possibly Rico Gathers. The Cowboys love how Jarwin came into his own in 2018, and after using a fourth-round pick on Schultz last year, they did not attempt to re-sign Geoff Swaim in free agency.

Joe Looney did an admirable job replacing Frederick at center last season when Frederick sat out recovering from Guillain-Barre syndrome, an autoimmune disorder. But Looney isn't a four-time Pro Bowler, and thus, Frederick's return could mean the most to the Cowboys this season. Martin remains the best right guard in the NFL, earning Pro Bowl honors for a fifth time in five seasons, and Tyrone Smith remains one of the game's top left tackles. La'el Collins has not lived up to expectations, but he's still better than most right tackles. Xavier Su'a-Filo and last year's second-round choice, Connor Williams, will compete for the left guard job. Williams, a three-year starter at left tackle in college, could move to right tackle in 2020 since Collins is in the final year of his deal. The Cowboys drafted Connor McGovern to take over eventually at left guard.

DEFENSE Lawrence backed up his breakout 2017 season with 10.5 sacks and two forced fumbles. It marked the first time since 2011-12 that a Cowboys pass rusher had consecutive seasons with double-digit sacks. Dallas paid the defensive end handsomely in the offseason, believing he will continue to produce. The Cowboys traded for Quinn, who had 38 tackles, 6.5 sacks and two forced fumbles in 16 games last season for the Dolphins. They also hope to get Randy Gregory back from an indefinite suspension after he had six sacks in 14 games. Taco Charlton gives defensive coordinator Rod Marinelli plenty of ammunition in his rotation at end. Tyrone Crawford can play end or tackle and could start at the under tackle, though the Cowboys also have Maliek Collins there and drafted Trysten Hill as the heir apparent at the position. Kerry Hyder joins Antwaun Woods and Christian Covington in the defensive tackle rotation.

Jaylon Smith and Vander Esch became one of the NFL's best linebacking duos last season. Both appear destined for multiple Pro Bowls. The Cowboys drafted Vander Esch because of concerns about Sean Lee's ability to stay healthy. It was a good move. Lee missed nine games last season and played only 21.5 percent of the team's defensive snaps. He returns for a 10th season but is no longer the focal point in the middle of this defense. Joe Thomas and Justin March-Lillard provide depth and are core special teams players.

The Cowboys signed George Iloka, who is expected to supplant Jeff Heath as the starter at strong safety, with sixth-round pick Donovan Wilson also competing for playing time. The Cowboys were pleased with Xavier Woods' first season at free safety. Jones, who moved from safety to cornerback last season, seems to have found a home. He earned Pro Bowl honors for the first time, becoming one of the best at his position. Chidobe Awuzie starts on the other side, with Jourdan Lewis and Anthony Brown providing solid depth.

SPECIALISTS The Cowboys made the unpopular decision to move on from Dan Bailey, keeping the unproven Brett Maher instead. Maher was better than Bailey, making 29-of-36 field goal attempts, with a long of 62. Chris Jones averaged 44.5 yards on 60 punts, with a 39.6 net. He had 17 punts inside the 20-yard line with only two touchbacks. The Cowboys haven't had a threat in the return game since Dwayne Harris, who left after the 2014 season. They drafted Ryan Switzer in 2017 and traded for Tavon Austin in 2018. Their search continues with Pollard, who tied the FBS career record with seven kick-return touchdowns in three seasons at Memphis.

FINAL ANALYSIS Jason Garrett heads into the final year of his contract on the hot seat. He saved his job last season with an NFC East title and a wild card playoff victory. It did not earn him an extension. Garrett, who is 77-59 in the regular season since taking over in the middle of 2010, will need to take yet another step this season to keep his job. Otherwise, the Cowboys will find somebody else. Jones is running out of time to get back to the Super Bowl, and, with 13 starters having a combined 42 Pro Bowls, the Cowboys have the talent to contend in the NFC.



DAK PRESCOTT



2019 VETERAN COWBOYS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Prescott, Dak	QB	6-2	235	3	Mississippi State	D4b-16		D4b-Dal-16	
7	Rush, Cooper	QB	6-3	225	2	Central Michigan	FA-17		FA-Dal-17	
3	White, Mike	QB	6-5	220	1	Western Kentucky	D5-18		D5-Dal-18	
RUNNING BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Chunn, Jordan	RB	6-0	230	1	Troy	FA-18		FA-Dal-18	
21	Elliott, Ezekiel	RB	6-0	228	3	Ohio State	D1-16		D1-Dal-16	
26	Jackson, Darius	RB	6-0	228	3	Eastern Michigan	FA-18		D6-Dal-16	
49	Olawale, Jamize	FB	6-1	242	7	North Texas	T-Oak-18		FA-Dal-12	
RECEIVERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
10	Austin, Tavon	WR	5-8	180	6	West Virginia	T-LAR-18		D1a-LAR-13	
85	Brown, Noah	WR	6-2	225	2	Ohio State	D7b-17		D7b-Dal-17	
18	Cobb, Randall	WR	5-10	192	8	Kentucky	FA-GB-19		D2-GB-11	
19	Cooper, Amari	WR	6-1	210	4	Alabama	T-Oak-18		D1-Oak-15	
11	Davis, Reggie	WR	5-11	170	1	Georgia	FA-18		FA-Atl-17	
13	Gallup, Michael	WR	6-1	205	1	Colorado State	D3-18		D3-Dal-18	
80	Gathers, Rico	TE	6-6	282	2	Baylor	D6d-16		D6d-Dal-16	
17	Hurns, Allen	WR	6-1	208	5	Miami	FA-Jac-18		FA-Jac-14	
89	Jarwin, Blake	TE	6-5	260	2	Oklahoma State	FA-17		FA-Dal-17	
14	Lenoir Jr., Lance	WR	6-0	210	1	Western Illinois	FA-17		FA-Dal-17	
86	Schultz, Dalton	TE	6-5	260	1	Stanford	D4b-18		D4b-Dal-18	
15	Smith, Devin	WR	6-1	199	2	Ohio State	FA-19		D2-NYJ-15	
16	Wilson, Cedrick	WR	6-2	195	1	Boise State	D6b-18		D6b-Dal-18	
82	Witten, Jason	TE	6-6	263	15	Tennessee	D3-03		D3-Dal-03	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
63	Campos, Jake	T	6-7	310	1	Iowa State	FA-18		FA-Dal-18	
71	Collins, La'el	T	6-4	323	4	LSU	FA-15		FA-Dal-15	
75	Fleming, Cameron	T	6-5	320	5	Stanford	FA-NE-18		D4c-NE-14	
72	Frederick, Travis	C	6-4	320	6	Wisconsin	D1-13		D1-Dal-13	
73	Looney, Joe	C	6-3	315	6	Wake Forest	FA-Ten-16		D4-SF-12	
70	Martin, Zack	G	6-4	315	5	Notre Dame	D1-14		D1-Dal-14	
61	Redmond, Adam	C	6-6	300	1	Harvard	W-Buf-18		FA-Ind-16	
77	Smith, Tyron	T	6-5	320	8	USC	D1-11		D1-Dal-11	
76	Su'a-Filo, Xavier	G	6-4	310	5	UCLA	FA-18		D2-Hou-14	
78	Wichmann, Cody	G	6-5	325	3	Fresno State	FA-18		D6-LAR-16	
52	Williams, Connor	G/T	6-5	310	1	Texas	D2-18		D2-Dal-18	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
92	Armstrong, Dorrance	DE	6-4	255	1	Kansas	D4a-18		D4a-Dal-18	
97	Charlton, Taco	DE	6-6	275	2	Michigan	D1-17		D1-Dal-17	
96	Collins, Maliek	DT	6-2	308	3	Nebraska	D3-16		D3-Dal-16	
95	Covington, Christian	DT	6-2	310	4	Rice	FA-Hou-19		D6b-Hou-15	
98	Crawford, Tyrone	DL	6-4	285	7	Boise State	D3-12		D3-Dal-12	
94	Gregory, Randy	DE	6-5	242	2	Nebraska	D2-16		D2-Dal-16	
62	Hyder Jr., Kerry	DE	6-2	270	3	Texas Tech	FA-Det-19		FA-NYJ-14	
90	Lawrence, Demarcus	DE	6-3	265	5	Boise State	D2-14		D2-Dal-14	
58	Quinn, Robert	DE	6-4	257	8	North Carolina	T-Mia-19		D1-LAR-11	
93	Ross, Daniel	DT	6-4	300	2	NE Mississippi CC	PS-KC-17		FA-Hou-17	
67	Soto, Shakir	DE	6-3	290	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19		FA-Den-17	
99	Woods, Antwaun	DT	6-1	312	1	USC	FA-18		FA-Ten-16	
LINEBACKERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59	Covington, Chris	LB	6-2	245	1	Indiana	D6a-18		D6a-Dal-18	
50	Lee, Sean	LB	6-2	245	9	Penn State	D2-10		D2-Dal-10	
53	March-Lillard, Justin	LB	5-11	228	4	Akron	FA-17		FA-KC-15	
41	Queiro, Kyle	LB	6-2	230	1	Northwestern	FA-18		FA-Dal-18	
54	Smith, Jaylon	LB	6-2	245	2	Notre Dame	D2-16		D2-Dal-16	
48	Thomas, Joe	LB	6-1	232	4	South Carolina St.	FA-18		FA-GB-14	
55	Vander Esch, Leighton	LB	6-4	255	1	Boise State	D1-18		D1-Dal-18	
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
24	Awuzie, Chidobe	CB	6-0	202	2	Colorado	D2-17		D2-Dal-17	
30	Brown, Anthony	CB	5-11	196	3	Purdue	D6a-16		D6a-Dal-16	
34	Decoud, Treston	CB	6-3	210	2	UL Lafayette	FA-18		D5-Hou-17	
35	Frazier, Kavon	S	6-0	223	3	Central Michigan	D6b-16		D6b-Dal-16	
29	Goodwin, C.J.	CB	6-3	190	3	California (PA)	PS-Cin-18		FA-Pit-14	
38	Heath, Jeff	S	6-1	212	6	Saginaw Valley St.	FA-13		FA-Dal-13	
20	Iloka, George	S	6-4	225	7	Boise State	FA-Min-19		D5-Cin-12	
31	Jones, Byron	CB	6-1	200	4	Connecticut	D1-15		D1-Dal-15	
27	Lewis, Jourdan	CB	5-10	195	2	Michigan	D3-17		D3-Dal-17	
32	Olumba, Donovan	CB	6-2	205	1	Portland State	FA-18		FA-Dal-18	
28	Showers, Jameill	S	6-2	223	1	UTEP	FA-15		FA-Dal-15	
20	Thompson, Darian	S	6-2	211	3	Boise State	FA-18		D3-NYG-16	
25	Woods, Xavier	S	5-11	205	2	Louisiana Tech	D6a-17		D6a-Dal-17	
SPECIALISTS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6	Jones, Chris	P	6-0	205	7	Carson Newman	FA-11		FA-Dal-11	
91	Ladouceur, Louis-Philippe	LS	6-5	256	14	California	FA-05		FA-NO-05	
2	Maher, Brett	K	6-0	180	1	Nebraska	FA-18		FA-NYJ-13	
1	Redfern, Kasey	P	6-1	205	1	Wofford	FA-19		FA-Jac-14	
47	Scott, Drew	LS	6-1	209	1	Kansas State	FA-19		FA-Oak-18	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	13	Michael Gallup	16	Cedrick Wilson
WR	18	Randall Cobb	17	Allen Hurns
WR	19	Amari Cooper	85	Noah Brown
LT	77	Tyron Smith	75	Cameron Fleming
LG	52	Connor Williams	76	Xavier Su'a-Filo
C	72	Travis Frederick	73	Joe Looney
RG	70	Zack Martin	66	Connor McGovern (R)
RT	71	La'el Collins	52	Connor Williams
TE	82	Jason Witten	89	Blake Jarwin
QB	4	Dak Prescott	7	Cooper Rush
RB	21	Ezekiel Elliott	36	Tony Pollard (R)

DEFENSE

DE	58	Robert Quinn	97	Taco Charlton
DT	98	Tyrone Crawford	96	Maliek Collins
DT	99	Antwaun Woods	79	Trysten Hill (R)
DE	90	Demarcus Lawrence	94	Randy Gregory
WLB	55	Leighton Vander Esch	50	Sean Lee
MLB	54	Jaylon Smith	48	Joe Thomas
SLB	50	Sean Lee	48	Joe Thomas
CB	31	Byron Jones	27	Jourdan Lewis
CB	24	Chidobe Awuzie	30	Anthony Brown
FS	25	Xavier Woods	35	Kavon Frazier
SS	20	George Iloka	38	Jeff Heath

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Brett Maher	KR	36	Tony Pollard (R)
P	6	Chris Jones	PR	36	Tony Pollard (R)

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
WR	Randall Cobb	Green Bay
DL	Christian Covington	Houston
DT	Kerry Hyder	Detroit
S	George Iloka	Minnesota
DE	Robert Quinn	Miami
TE	Jason Witten	Retirement

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Cole Beasley	Buffalo
DT	David Irving	Free Agent
RB	Rod Smith	Free Agent
TE	Geoff Swaim	Jacksonville
LB	Damien Wilson	Kansas City

SCOUTING THE COWBOYS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DALLAS "With a healthy and fully focused Zeke Elliott, this team is a division winner; if he is not that way, then they are 8-8. In 2018, he ran for 1,434 yards and six touchdowns, while catching 77 passes and another three scores, which led to 10 wins and a division crown. ... You can argue that Dak Prescott played better overall in his third year as he increased his completion percentage (67.7) and threw only eight interceptions. ... Scott Linehan is out and Kellen Moore is in as the play caller, so look for a controlled passing game with the ability to launch the football vertically. ... Jerry Jones and Co. gave up a No. 1 pick for Amari Cooper, and they are hoping his 53 receptions and six touchdowns was a preview of the future. ... Jason Witten returns from TV and will add the intangibles of leadership and preparation, but in no way does he run well enough to threaten a defense down the seam. ... Rod Marinelli does an amazing job with the D. Demarcus Lawrence signed a huge deal, and they traded for Robert Quinn (Dolphins) to shore up their pass rush, but wow, has Taco Charlton been a flop. He's too leggy and not twitched up enough to be effective. ... Jaylon Smith has made an incredible comeback as a multi-dimensional player. Sean Lee's health is always in question (only started five games in 2018), and Leighton Vander Esch proved to be a wise choice as a first-rounder. ... Byron Jones became a Pro Bowler with the move to cornerback, and Xavier Woods has bona-fide NFL safety ability. ... It's a two-horse race in the East between the Cowboys and Eagles."



Cowboys IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Trysten Hill	DT	6-3	308	UCF
3.	Connor McGovern	OG	6-5	308	Penn State
4.	Tony Pollard	RB	6-0	210	Memphis
5.	Michael Jackson	DB	6-1	210	Miami (Fla.)
5.	Joe Jackson	DL	6-4	275	Miami (Fla.)
6.	Donovan Wilson	S	6-1	207	Texas A&M
7.	Mike Weber	RB	5-10	211	Ohio State
7.	Jalen Jelks	DE	6-6	245	Oregon

The Cowboys had interest in safeties Juan Thornhill of Virginia and Taylor Rapp of Washington, and both were available when they made their first selection (No. 58 overall). But the under tackle is the most important position in the Tampa 2 defense, and UCF defensive tackle Trysten Hill fit the bill. Third-round pick Connor McGovern will spend this season grooming to take over at left guard next season. Memphis running back Tony Pollard could have the biggest impact this season, with the Cowboys counting on him to improve their return game. Mike Weber and Pollard both could make the roster as backups to Ezekiel Elliott. Joe Jackson and Jalen Jelks will compete for jobs on a crowded defensive line, and Michael Jackson is the big corner that secondary coach Kris Richard covets.

Outside the Huddle

LONG BALL Quarterback Dak Prescott has worked on improving his down-field passing accuracy, and now he has a receiver in Amari Cooper who can get open deep. Prescott averaged 7.71 yards per attempt in nine games with Cooper after averaging 6.88 yards per attempt in the first seven games last season.

CENTURY CLUB Ezekiel Elliott has led the league in yards per game for three consecutive seasons since the Cowboys made him the fourth overall choice in 2016. He is averaging 101.2 yards per game in his career. Hall of Famer Jim Brown is the only running back in NFL history to end his career averaging more than 100 yards per game; Brown finished his nine-year career at 104.3 yards per game.

NO RETURNS The Cowboys finished 31st in the NFL in punt returns and 32nd in kickoff returns in 2018, which is why they drafted running back Tony Pollard in the fourth round. One of the top returners in the draft, he should help their field position.

RED ZONE WOES The Cowboys' production in the red zone was a major reason for offensive coordinator Scott Linehan's departure as they ranked only 29th, getting 24 touchdowns and 16 field goals in 50 red zone chances.

HE'S BACK Linebacker Sean Lee mulled retirement before deciding to return for a 10th season. He has not found a way to stay healthy, missing nine games last season and 51 in his career. But maybe seeing fewer snaps this season will help keep him out of the training room.

DELAYED RETURN Byron Jones underwent hip surgery in late March, forcing him to miss the offseason program. The cornerback, a first-round pick in 2015, is expected to start training camp on the physically unable to perform list.

PLAYOFFS! The Cowboys have made the playoffs three times in the past five seasons after enduring a four-year drought from 2010-13. The franchise has now reached the postseason a total of 33 times, the most in NFL history. The Packers and Giants are tied for second-most postseason appearances with 32.

HOME SWEET HOME AT&T Stadium opened in 2009. The Cowboys are 44-36 in the regular season — including a 7-1 mark last season — and 3-1 in the postseason at home since moving to Arlington.

WELCOME BACK Tight end Jason Witten spent last season in the broadcast booth as an analyst on "Monday Night Football." He decided to unretire, returning for a 16th NFL season. Witten has 1,152 catches for 12,448 yards and 68 touchdowns in his career. He has not ruled out playing more than one more season.

SAFETY DANCE The Cowboys were expected to make a push for veteran safety Earl Thomas, but they never got involved in the Thomas sweepstakes after hearing how much money the six-time Pro Bowler wanted. It was expected that the Cowboys would look to fill the void in the draft, and they did pick a safety — but not until the sixth round, when they selected Texas A&M's Donovan Wilson.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	12	🏆
2015	4	
2016	13	🏆
2017	9	
2018	10	🏆

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3:07

The Cowboys averaged 3:07 of possession time per offensive drive, the second highest in the NFL.

6.7

Dallas recovered fumbles on 6.7 percent of their defensive drives, the fourth highest in the NFL.

1.6

The Cowboys overperformed expected Pythagorean wins by 1.6 wins, second highest in the NFL.



New York GIANTS

NFC East Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

President/CEO: John K. Mara
Chairman/Executive VP: Steve Tisch
Senior VP of Player Personnel: Chris Mara
Senior VP/General Manager: Dave Gettleman
Stadium: MetLife Stadium (82,500)
Surface: UBU Speed S5-M
Website: www.giants.com
Tickets: 201-935-8222
Training Camp: Quest Diagnostics Training Center (East Rutherford, N.J.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Pat Shurmur
Record With Team: 5-11
Career Record: 15-34
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Shula
Defensive Coordinator: James Bettcher
Special Teams Coordinator: Thomas McGaughey
Running Backs: Craig Johnson
Wide Receivers: Tyke Tolbert
Tight Ends: Lunda Wells
Offensive Line: Hal Hunter
Defensive Line: Gary Emanuel
Linebackers: Bill McGovern
Outside Linebackers: Mike Dawson
Defensive Backs: Everett Withers

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Sept. 15	Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Sept. 22	at Tampa Bay	4:05	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Sept. 29	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Oct. 6	Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Oct. 10	at New England (Thu.)	8:20	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Oct. 20	Arizona	1:00	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Oct. 27	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Nov. 4	Dallas (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Nov. 10	at N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
BYE							
Nov. 24	at Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Dec. 1	Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Dec. 9	at Philadelphia (Mon.)	8:15	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Dec. 15	Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Dec. 22	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Dec. 29	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)

They traded away their most explosive weapon and their only consistent pass rusher. They let an outstanding young safety and locker room leader sign with a division rival. They stuck with a 38-year-old quarterback who most believe is in decline, and they used their first-round pick on a player who might not play until 2020. So how exactly has all that made the Giants a better team?

It may be hard to see, but Giants GM Dave Gettleman believes his unconventional formula really will be enough to turn his team from a 5-11 mess to a playoff contender. Laugh if you want, but he's an old-school GM who has been on a two-year mission to rid the organization of bad guys, underachieving players and over-inflated conflicts.

Sure, receiver Odell Beckham Jr. (traded to Cleveland), linebacker Olivier Vernon (traded to Cleveland), and safety Landon Collins (signed with Washington) were three of his better players. But Gettleman sees a better locker room now and a better team — and he redistributed some of those financial assets to areas of greater need.

Will it work? Gettleman believes it will. It would seem to largely depend on the aging Eli Manning. But Gettleman believes in him, too.

OFFENSE Gettleman and coach Pat Shurmur still believe Manning has “years” remaining, even though he's in the last year of his contract and now has his eventual replacement (rookie Daniel Jones) standing behind him. They also believe that he's still elite, especially if he can get protection.

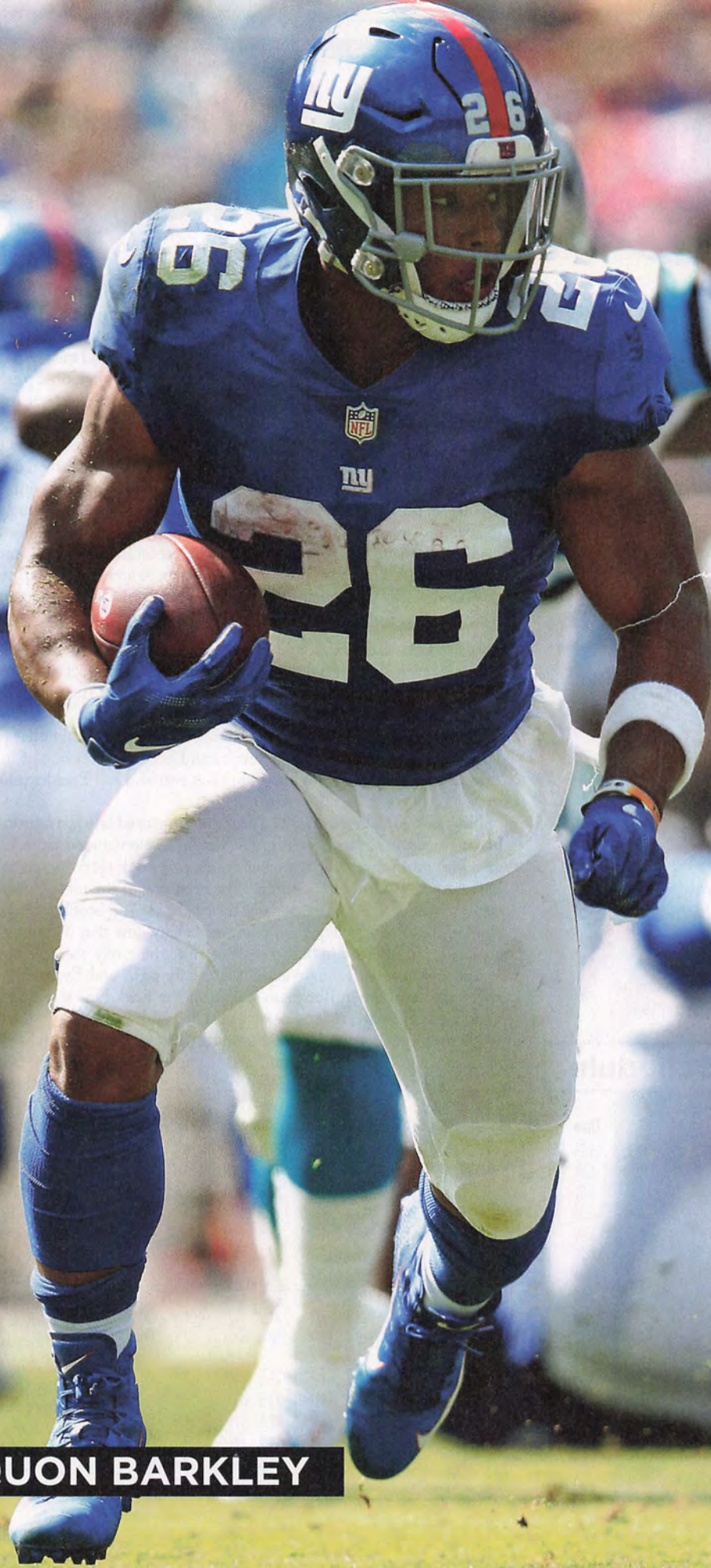
Are they right? Well, Manning is far from “done” — a familiar refrain from his critics. He certainly can make a lot of throws and is coming off one of his best statistical years. And considering he got no protection last year and lost Beckham for the final four games, that's pretty good.

Now he's got a line in front of him that improved late last season and should get a huge boost from the acquisition of guard Kevin Zeitler (traded from Cleveland). That should give him more time to get the ball to his new-look receiving corps. Yes, he'll miss Beckham, but 31-year-old Golden Tate has been one of the most consistent receivers over the last few years and is a dynamo after the catch. He and Sterling Shepard, though somewhat similar, could be a pretty good team, especially now that Manning doesn't have to worry about keeping Beckham happy — something he rarely was able to do.

The absence of Beckham should also help tight end Evan Engram, who usually benefited the most when Beckham wasn't on the field. He's a terrific receiving threat and a matchup nightmare, as long as he can stay healthy.

Of course, this is no longer Manning's offense. The Giants will go as far as superstar

Saquon Barkley can carry them. The reigning NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year thrived when he was the focal point of the offense, though he slowed a bit towards the end of the season. With better blockers in front of him, the sky is the limit for him as a rusher. But it's his ability as a receiver that really makes him dangerous. Last season he got too many of his catches as an emergency dump-off from a panicked Manning as the offensive line disintegrated. But if Shurmur can use Barkley as more than that, and if Manning has time to pick and choose between Barkley, Tate, Shepard and Engram? Well, maybe then the Giants won't miss Beckham very much at all.



RB **SAQUON BARKLEY**



2018 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept. 9	Jacksonville	L	15-20
Sept. 16	at Dallas	L	13-20
Sept. 23	at Houston	W	27-22
Sept. 30	New Orleans	L	18-33
Oct. 7	at Carolina	L	31-33
Oct. 11	Philadelphia	L	13-34
Oct. 22	at Atlanta	L	20-23
Oct. 28	Washington	L	13-20
Nov. 12	at San Francisco	W	27-23
Nov. 18	Tampa Bay	W	38-35
Nov. 25	at Philadelphia	L	22-25
Dec. 2	Chicago (ot)	W	30-27
Dec. 9	at Washington	W	40-16
Dec. 16	Tennessee	L	0-17
Dec. 23	at Indianapolis	L	27-28
Dec. 30	Dallas	L	35-36

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Eli Manning	576	380	4,299	21	11
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Saquon Barkley	261	1,307	5.0	11	
Wayne Gallman	51	176	3.5	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Odell Beckham Jr.	77	1,052	13.7	6	
Sterling Shepard	66	872	13.2	4	
Saquon Barkley	91	721	7.9	4	
Evan Engram	45	577	12.8	3	
Rhett Ellison	25	272	10.9	1	
Bennie Fowler	16	199	12.4	1	
Cody Latimer	11	190	17.3	1	

KICKING: Aldrick Rosas, 32-33 FGs, 31-32 PAT, 127 points

TACKLES: Landon Collins, 96; Alec Ogletree, 93

SACKS: Olivier Vernon, 7.0; B.J. Hill, 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Alec Ogletree, 5; Curtis Riley, 4

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	356.1	17	9
Rushing	103.1	24	11
Passing	252.9	11	6
Scoring	23.1	16	9
Third Down %	36.9	22	11
Punt Returns	6.2	28	13
Kick Returns	24.4	17	3

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	371.4	24	14
Rushing	118.6	20	11
Passing	252.8	23	12
Scoring	25.8	23	12
Interceptions	16	17	3
Sacks	30	T30	16
Turnover Differential	+2	T13	7

DEFENSE The Giants actually believe their defense was their biggest problem last year, that they blew too many leads. That's a bit of a stretch, and ignores a bit of the big picture, but the larger point is accurate: Their defense was bad, and they rarely put pressure on the opposing quarterback.

Seems crazy, then, that they'd trade away their best pass rusher in Vernon and not really replace him. But they believe there's a method to their madness. Lorenzo Carter, a situational pass

rusher last year as a rookie, does appear ready to step into a larger role and has shown promise. And Markus Golden, the former Cardinal, was actually a terrific pass rusher before he hurt his knee. He's apparently healthy now, and his old defensive coordinator James Bettcher — now with the Giants — believes he can recapture his old form. If he can, then maybe this defense could be pretty good.

Even though they let Collins walk, the secondary could actually be better. Adding Jabrill Peppers (in the Beckham trade) gives them a suitable replacement, and the signing of Antoine Bethea gives them a much-needed veteran presence at safety.

At cornerback, they brought back veteran Janoris Jenkins, who is coming off a pretty solid, trouble-free season. Jenkins is also surrounded by a lot of promising young players. The Giants are really high on Sam Beal, a former supplemental draft pick who missed his rookie season with a shoulder injury. And they drafted corners in the first and fourth rounds this year — Deandre Baker and Julian Love — who could make an immediate impact.

But it does all come down to that pass rush, which might not be better, but really couldn't be worse. The addition of 342-pound rookie Dexter Lawrence in the middle of the line should shore up their run defense. If they don't get after the quarterback, though, they're going to have the same late-game breakdowns that plagued them last year.

They do have the pieces to get after the quarterback — Carter, Golden, maybe rookie Oshane Ximines, some speedy blitzers out of the secondary and Bettcher's aggressive scheme. It remains to be seen if their plan actually can work, though.

SPECIALISTS The Giants have become surprisingly good in the kicking game, with the addition of strong-legged punter Riley Dixon and the improvement of Aldrick Rosas, who became a reliable placekicker and a Pro Bowler last season. They always believed in Rosas, who was a bit shaky as a rookie, which is why they didn't bring in a veteran to compete with him last year.

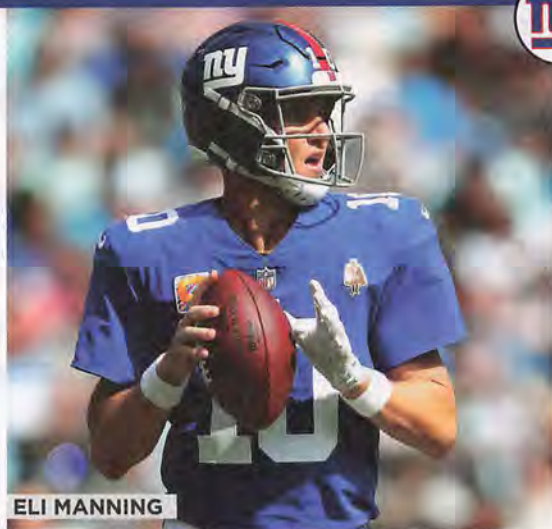
Where the Giants are lacking, though, is in the return game. They were so non-explosive there that they seemed to be constantly spinning through a rolodex of returners, including Beckham. They are now counting on some mostly unproven talent — such as receiver Corey Coleman or maybe rookies Darius Slayton or Corey Ballentine. They could give Cody Latimer or Russell Shepard a shot. Maybe Sterling Shepard, too. They have more depth than they used to, which should mean better blocking and better coverage. But the missing piece remains the dynamic returner who can tilt the field.

FINAL ANALYSIS Despite all the doom and gloom in New York, it's not like Gettleman completely stripped the roster or left them without any playmakers. Sure, the loss of Beckham could hurt, but Tate is capable of catching 90 passes for 1,000 yards, and now there'll be room for others in the passing game, too. They haven't really replaced Vernon, but the pass rush was pretty bad with him. And Peppers isn't a bad fill-in for Collins.

They also still have Barkley, Shepard and Engram operating behind what looks to be a much-improved offensive line, and there are some promising players on defense.

But then there's Manning, and he's the key to everything. If he plays like he did at the beginning of last year, he'll likely be replaced by Jones by midseason. If he plays like he did at the end, the Giants will be OK. If he finds away to thrive and the protection is good and his remaining weapons stay healthy, they could be a factor in the NFC East.

That's a lot to hope for, of course. Just like it's a lot to hope that Manning, at 38, will reverse what looks like a decline. If he can, then this team won't be bad. If he can't, then the Jones era will soon begin.



ELI MANNING



2019 VETERAN GIANTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
17	Lauetta, Kyle	QB	6-3	221	1	Richmond	D4-18
10	Manning, Eli	QB	6-5	218	15	Ole Miss	T-SD-04
3	Tanne, Alex	QB	6-3	209	4	Monmouth (IL)	FA-18
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
26	Barkley, Saquon	RB	6-0	233	1	Penn State	D1-18
22	Gallman Jr., Wayne	RB	6-0	217	2	Clemson	D4-17
25	Martin, Robert	RB	5-11	210	1	Rutgers	FA-18
39	Penny, Eli	RB	6-1	234	2	Idaho	FA-18
37	Perkins, Paul	RB	5-11	214	3	UCLA	D5-16
28	Stewart, Jonathan	RB	5-10	245	10	Oregon	FA-Car-18
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
19	Coleman, Corey	WR	5-11	185	2	Baylor	FA-18
89	Dickerson, Garrett	TE	6-2	244	1	Northwestern	FA-18
85	Ellison, Rhett	TE	6-5	254	7	USC	FA-17
88	Engram, Evan	TE	6-3	240	2	Ole Miss	D1-17
18	Fowler III, Bennie	WR	6-1	212	4	Michigan State	FA-18
83	Golden, Brittan	WR	5-11	186	4	West Texas A&M	FA-18
12	Latimer, Cody	WR	6-2	217	5	Indiana	FA-Den-18
84	Russell, Alonzo	WR	6-3	206	1	Toledo	FA-18
81	Shepard, Russell	WR	6-1	199	6	LSU	FA-Phi-18
87	Shepard, Sterling	WR	5-10	203	3	Oklahoma	D2-16
82	Simonson, Scott	TE	6-5	261	4	Assumption	FA-18
15	Tate, Golden	WR	5-10	197	9	Notre Dame	FA-Phi-19
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
67	Brown, Evan	C	6-2	305	1	SMU	FA-18
65	Gates, Nick	G	6-5	312	1	Nebraska	FA-18
75	Halapio, Jon	C	6-3	317	2	Florida	FA-16
71	Hernandez, Will	G	6-2	335	1	UTEP	D2-18
68	Mihalik, Brian	T	6-9	315	2	Boston College	FA-18
77	Pulley, Spencer	C	6-4	308	3	Vanderbilt	W-LAC-18
64	Salako, Victor	OL	6-5	316	1	Oklahoma State	W-Cle-18
62	Slade, Chad	G	6-5	315	1	Auburn	FA-19
76	Solder, Nate	T	6-8	320	8	Colorado	FA-NE-18
63	Wheeler, Chad	T	6-7	317	2	USC	FA-17
70	Zeitler, Kevin	OL	6-4	315	7	Wisconsin	T-Cle-19
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
61	Ceresna, Jake	DT	6-5	295	1	Cortland	FA-18
95	Hill, B.J.	DL	6-3	303	1	NC State	D3-18
47	Humphrey, Myles	DE	6-3	238	1	Shepherd	FA-18
90	McIntosh, RJ	DL	6-4	283	1	Miami	D5-18
72	Pierre, Olsen	DT	6-5	293	2	Miami	FA-Ari-19
94	Tomlinson, Dalvin	DL	6-3	318	2	Alabama	D2-17
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
55	Anderson, Jonathan	LB	6-1	237	3	TCU	FA-18
59	Carter, Lorenzo	LB	6-5	252	1	Georgia	D3-18
58	Davis, Tae	LB	6-0	222	1	Chattanooga	FA-18
45	Eligwe, Ukeme	LB	6-2	239	2	Georgia Southern	FA-18
44	Golden, Markus	LB	6-3	260	4	Missouri	FA-Ari-19
93	Goodson, B.J.	LB	6-1	243	3	Clemson	D4-16
96	Martin, Kareem	LB	6-6	263	5	North Carolina	FA-18
79	Moss, Avery	LB	6-3	269	2	Youngstown State	FA-18
52	Ogletree, Alec	LB	6-2	254	6	Georgia	T-LAR-18
54	Stupar, Nate	LB	6-2	240	6	Penn State	FA-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
23	Beal, Sam	DB	6-1	189	1	Western Michigan	SD3-18
41	Betha, Antoine	S	5-11	206	13	Howard	FA-Ari-19
36	Chandler, Sean	S	5-10	200	1	Temple	FA-18
34	Haley, Grant	CB	5-9	190	1	Penn State	FA-18
30	Hamilton, Antonio	CB	6-0	190	3	South Carolina St.	W-Oak-18
27	Hunter, Michael	CB	6-0	192	2	Oklahoma State	FA-19
20	Jenkins, Janoris	CB	5-10	190	7	North Alabama	FA-LAR-16
33	Ladler, Kenny	S	6-1	200	2	Vanderbilt	FA-18
24	Lippett, Tony	DB	6-3	192	3	Michigan State	FA-18
29	Moore, Kamrin	DB	5-11	200	1	Boston College	W-NO-18
21	Peppers, Jabrill	DB	5-11	213	2	Michigan	T-Cle-17
31	Thomas, Michael	S	5-10	196	5	Stanford	FA-Mia-18
38	Toliver, Henry	CB	6-0	190	1	Arkansas	FA-19
43	Zamort, Ronald	DB	5-10	174	2	Western Michigan	FA-18
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
51	DeOssie, Zak	LS	6-5	250	12	Brown	D4-07
9	Dixon, Riley	P	6-5	227	3	Syracuse	T-Den-18
46	Pepper, Taybor	LS	6-4	245	1	Michigan State	FA-18
2	Rosas, Aldrick	K	6-3	233	2	Southern Oregon	FA-17

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	15	Golden Tate	12	Cody Latimer
WR	87	Sterling Shepard	81	Russell Shepard
WR	19	Corey Coleman	86	Darius Slayton (R)
LT	76	Nate Solder	68	Brian Mihalik
LG	71	Will Hernandez	65	Nick Gates
C	75	Jon Halapio	77	Spencer Pulley
RG	70	Kevin Zeitler	62	Chad Slade
RT	63	Chad Wheeler	64	Victor Salako
TE	88	Evan Engram	85	Rhett Ellison
QB	10	Eli Manning	8	Daniel Jones (R)
RB	26	Saquon Barkley	22	Wayne Gallman

DEFENSE

DE	72	Olsen Pierre	99	Chris Slayton (R)
DT	97	Dexter Lawrence (R)	94	Dalvin Tomlinson
DE	95	B.J. Hill	90	RJ McIntosh
OLB	96	Kareem Martin	53	Oshane Ximines (R)
ILB	52	Alec Ogletree	58	Tae Davis
ILB	93	B.J. Goodson	54	Nate Stupar
OLB	44	Markus Golden	59	Lorenzo Carter
CB	20	Janoris Jenkins	37	Julian Love (R)
CB	35	Deandre Baker (R)	23	Sam Beal
S	21	Jabrill Peppers	36	Sean Chandler
S	41	Antoine Bethea	31	Michael Thomas

SPECIALISTS

P	9	Riley Dixon	KR	19	Corey Coleman
K	2	Aldrick Rosas	PR	19	Corey Coleman

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
S	Antoine Bethea	Arizona
OLB	Markus Golden	Arizona
S	Jabrill Peppers	Cleveland
DT	Olsen Pierre	Arizona
WR	Golden Tate	Philadelphia
OG	Kevin Zeitler	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
WR	Odell Beckham Jr.	Cleveland
OG	Jamon Brown	Atlanta
S	Landon Collins	Washington
S	Curtis Riley	Oakland
OLB	Olivier Vernon	Cleveland
DE	Kerry Wynn	Cincinnati

SCOUTING THE GIANTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW YORK "The signing of Nate Solder and drafting of Saquon Barkley a year ago told everyone in the NFL that GM Dave Gettleman and head coach Pat Shurmur believed they could win now while getting another two to three seasons from Eli Manning. Then, they traded Odell Beckham Jr. in March, after they extended him last August, and followed that up by selecting Duke QB Daniel Jones at No. 6. So are they now rebuilding? It's hard to tell. ... Eli is capable on designed plays, but he struggles without a clean pocket and off-script. ... The offensive line should be improved with Kevin Zeitler added at right guard, but they still need a better answer at right tackle. ... Evan Engram is their vertical threat in the middle of the field and on his way to being a star player, while Sterling Shepard and free agent Golden Tate should be able to work the underbelly of the defense. ... Their bigger issues are on defense where they finished near the bottom of the league in sacks. They drafted Dexter Lawrence from Clemson on the inside, and he will mix in with B.J. Hill and Dalvin Tomlinson. Other than Lorenzo Carter (four sacks and 10 QB hurries), their rush potential is meager. ... Janoris Jenkins has skills, but focus has always been a question mark, so they drafted Deandre Baker in the first round and Julian Love in the fourth. I think they will regret moving on from Landon Collins, who ended up in the division with Washington. ... It's hard to say they aren't half-in/half-out on starting over, but with Jones on board, at least they have their QB of the future in place."



Giants

IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Daniel Jones	QB	6-5	221	Duke
1.	Dexter Lawrence	DT	6-4	342	Clemson
1.	Deandre Baker	CB	5-11	180	Georgia
3.	Oshane Ximines	LB	6-4	252	Old Dominion
4.	Julian Love	CB	5-11	195	Notre Dame
5.	Ryan Connelly	LB	6-2	242	Wisconsin
5.	Darius Slayton	WR	6-1	190	Auburn
6.	Corey Ballentine	CB	5-11	196	Washburn
7.	George Asafo-Adjei	OL	6-5	315	Kentucky
7.	Chris Slayton	DT	6-4	307	Syracuse

The spotlight may be on the first pick, where Daniel Jones is now designated to be the Giants' quarterback of the future, but beyond that, GM Dave Gettleman managed to plug a lot of defensive holes. Dexter Lawrence is going to step right in the middle of the defensive line, where Damon "Snacks" Harrison once dominated before he was shipped to Detroit last year. And Deandre Baker surely will start opposite Janoris Jenkins. Julian Love even has a chance to compete with Sam Beal, last year's supplemental third-round pick, to start in the slot. The wild card is Oshane Ximines, who will have a chance to play on this pass-rush-deficient team. He was a sack machine at ODU, but can his skills translate as he makes the enormous leap from Conference USA to the NFL?

Outside the Huddle

LITTLE ELI The comparisons between Eli Manning and new Giants QB Daniel Jones are eerie. They look similar, have the same calm demeanor — and both were coached by David Cutcliffe, the head coach at Duke (for Jones) and the former head coach at Ole Miss (for Manning) who also was the offensive coordinator at Tennessee when Eli Manning's brother, Peyton, was the QB. So are the comparisons between Jones and Manning fair? "Oh yeah," Cutcliffe says. "He's gifted physically. He's gifted mentally, willing to do the work, and he's got a fierce competitiveness."

LINEBACKER LAMENT Giants GM Dave Gettleman said he agonized over the choice he faced with the sixth pick in the draft: Take the quarterback Jones (which he did) or Kentucky linebacker Josh Allen (who went to the Jaguars at No. 7). When he settled on Jones, though, he continued a remarkable streak — 35 straight drafts for the Giants without taking a linebacker in the first round. An organization once known for its greatness at that position last had a first-round linebacker in 1984 when it took Carl Banks third overall.

ONCE A GIANT It took 10 years and stops in three other organizations, but wide receiver Golden Tate finally found his way to the organization he dreamed about as a kid. The 31-year-old receiver grew up in Tennessee, but he was a Giants fan. He has pictures of him wearing a "Little Tykes" Giants helmet and shoulder pad set to prove it.

SMALL SCHOOL STAR When edge rusher Oshane Ximines was selected in the third round of the draft by the Giants, he became the first player ever

drafted out of Old Dominion — a school that restarted its program in 2009 after an eight-decade hiatus. Oddly, the second (wide receiver Travis Fulgham) was drafted three rounds later. They will be the sixth and seventh ODU players in NFL history — five of whom are currently on NFL rosters right now.

PAR FOR THE COURSE Is there any question that Saquon Barkley is the biggest star on the Giants? Barkley even made his presence felt at The Masters. Sort of. As Tiger Woods was winning the tournament, his caddy, Joe LaCava, was wearing a Saquon Barkley Giants jersey that was clearly visible underneath his all-white caddy jumpsuit.

MAMA'S BOY Grant Haley was an inspirational story from the beginning, going undrafted out of Penn State, making the Giants' practice squad, and then getting promoted right into the starting lineup last season. But the more inspirational part of his story is his mom, Dr. Carla Neal-Haley, who has been battling primary sclerosing cholangitis (PSC) — a liver disease, for which the only cure is a liver transplant. On April 8, Haley tweeted wonderful news: "It is with the absolute greatest pleasure to say that Mama Haley has found her donor!"

CARDINALS EAST Giants defensive coordinator James Bettcher oversaw some good defenses in Arizona from 2015-17, and it seems like he's trying to get the band back together in New York. The Giants signed three ex-Cards this offseason — defensive end Markus Golden, defensive tackle Olsen Pierre and safety Antoine Bethea. They join linebacker Kareem Martin, whom the Giants signed in 2018.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	6
2015	6
2016	11 🏆
2017	3
2018	5

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

9.9

The Giants turned the ball over on just 9.9 percent of their offensive drives, the sixth-lowest rate in the NFL.

18.6

The Giants kicked field goals on 18.6 percent of their offensive drives, the fifth-highest rate in the NFL.

4.9

The defense sacked opposing quarterbacks on just 4.9 percent of drop-backs, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.



Philadelphia EAGLES

NFC East Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman/CEO: Jeffrey Lurie
President: Don Smolenski
Executive VP of Football Operations: Howie Roseman
Vice President of Player Personnel: Joe Douglas
Stadium: Lincoln Financial Field (67,594)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.philadelphiaeagles.com
Tickets: 215-463-5500
Training Camp: NovaCare Complex (Philadelphia, Pa.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Doug Pederson
Record With Team: 29-19
Career Record: 29-19
Offensive Coordinator: Mike Groh
Defensive Coordinator: Jim Schwartz
Special Teams Coordinator: Dave Fipp
Asst. Head Coach/Running Backs: Duce Staley
Quarterbacks: Press Taylor
Wide Receivers: Carson Walch
Tight Ends: Justin Peelle
Offensive Line/Run Game: Jeff Stoutland
Defensive Line: Phillip Daniels
Linebackers: Ken Flajole
Defensive Backs: Cory Undlin
Safeties: Tim Hauck

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Sept. 15	at Atlanta	8:20	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Sept. 22	Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Sept. 26	at Green Bay (Thu.)	8:20	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Oct. 6	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Oct. 13	at Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Oct. 20	at Dallas	8:20	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Oct. 27	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
Nov. 3	Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
BYE							
Nov. 17	New England	4:25	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Nov. 24	Seattle	8:20	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)
Dec. 1	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Dec. 9	N.Y. Giants (Mon.)	8:15	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Dec. 15	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Dec. 22	Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Dec. 29	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)

The Eagles' follow-up to their first-ever Super Bowl win included goodwill and happy feelings from their notoriously tough fans and another Nick Foles late-season rescue job, but it didn't produce a second Lombardi Trophy.

The question heading into 2019 is whether the Birds remain a true contender for the NFC title or if their Super Bowl LII triumph was a perfect storm of Foles' magic and a team that came together around him. Howie Roseman, the team's executive VP of football operations, certainly believes it's the former. Even though the Eagles fell short in the divisional round last year, Roseman didn't undertake an overhaul of the roster. Instead, he tweaked things with a few key additions but kept the team's core intact. Although many of the team's most important positions feature performers (left tackle Jason Peters, center Jason Kelce, safety Malcolm Jenkins) who are heading toward the ends of their careers, there is still plenty of talent remaining for Philadelphia to be a factor in the NFC title chase.

OFFENSE Foles is gone to Jacksonville, and that means the quarterback spot belongs to Carson Wentz. It really always has, except for times when he has been hurt, which over his first three years with the franchise has been often. Last year brought a back fracture that cost him the last part of the regular season and the playoffs. That was after he missed the beginning of the season rehabbing torn knee ligaments suffered at the end of 2017.

There is no doubting Wentz's talent. He has the arm to make all the throws, the legs to help him prolong plays and the demeanor of a star. However, can he stay healthy? It's a valid question. And without Foles as an insurance policy, the Eagles are tied completely to Wentz. He is in line to get a fat extension at some point during the next year, and whether the Birds give him a record-setting deal will depend on whether he can play 16 games for the first time since his rookie season. Nate Sudfeld and rookie Clayton Thorson will back him up, but neither is ready for steady work.

Roseman did get Wentz a couple of weapons. He shipped a late-round pick to Tampa Bay for DeSean Jackson, who returns to the city where he began his career as the deep threat the Eagles have lacked for a while. Last year, Jackson's 18.9 yards per reception led the NFL. Having him stretch the field will make life easier for Alshon Jeffery and Nelson Agholor, who are far more comfortable working closer to the line of scrimmage. Third-round pick JJ Arcega-Whiteside is a big, physical receiver who can win jump balls.

Last year, Zach Ertz set a record for the most receptions in a season by a tight end (116) and established himself as one of the league's elite players at the position. Second-year man Dallas Goedert showed that he had the potential to be a productive tight end.

The Eagles needed help at running back, so Roseman dished a pick to the Bears for

Jordan Howard, who has been a featured back in each of his three seasons, but whose production and yards per carry have fallen each of the last two. He's a workhorse, but he isn't a breakaway threat. However, second-round draft pick Miles Sanders from Penn State is. He is elusive and can run away from defenders. His arrival leaves Corey Clement, Wendell Smallwood and Josh Adams in a fight for time. If all-purpose veteran Darren Sproles returns for one more year, he will be a factor in small doses.

This could be the last round-up for Peters and/or Kelce, both of whom flirted with retirement during the offseason. Both are still highly capable. With an eye on



QB **CARSON WENTZ**



2018 RESULTS (9-7)

Sept. 6	Atlanta	W	18-12
Sept. 16	at Tampa Bay	L	21-27
Sept. 23	Indianapolis	W	20-16
Sept. 30	at Tennessee (ot)	L	23-26
Oct. 7	Minnesota	L	21-23
Oct. 11	at N.Y. Giants	W	34-13
Oct. 21	Carolina	L	17-21
Oct. 28	at Jacksonville	W	24-18
Nov. 11	Dallas	L	20-27
Nov. 18	at New Orleans	L	7-48
Nov. 25	N.Y. Giants	W	25-22
Dec. 3	Washington	W	28-13
Dec. 9	at Dallas (ot)	L	23-29
Dec. 16	at L.A. Rams	W	30-23
Dec. 23	Houston	W	32-30
Dec. 30	at Washington	W	24-0
Postseason			
Jan. 6	at Chicago	W	16-15
Jan. 13	at New Orleans	L	14-20

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Carson Wentz	401	279	3,074	21	7
Nick Foles	195	141	1,413	7	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Josh Adams	120	511	4.3	3	
Wendell Smallwood	87	364	4.2	3	
Corey Clement	68	259	3.8	2	
Jay Ajayi	45	184	4.1	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Zach Ertz	116	1,163	10.0	8	
Alshon Jeffery	65	843	13.0	6	
Nelson Agholor	64	736	11.5	4	
Dallas Goedert	33	334	10.1	4	

KICKING: Jake Elliott, 26-31 FGs, 33-35 PAT, 111 points

TACKLES: Nigel Bradham, 97; Malcolm Jenkins, 97

SACKS: Fletcher Cox, 10.5; Michael Bennett, 9.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Rasul Douglas, 3; Avonte Maddox, 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	365.3	14	7
Rushing	98.1	28	13
Passing	267.2	7	4
Scoring	22.9	18	10
Third Down %	41.0	12	8
Punt Returns	6.5	T23	T8
Kick Returns	22.0	19	9

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	366.2	23	13
Rushing	96.9	7	4
Passing	269.3	30	16
Scoring	21.8	12	5
Interceptions	10	25	10
Sacks	44	T8	T5
Turnover Differential	-6	25	13

Peters' inevitable departure, the Eagles drafted Washington State left tackle Andre Dillard, a strong pass protector, in the first round. Lane Johnson remains a solid brawler at right tackle. It will be interesting to see when guard Brandon Brooks will be recovered from the torn Achilles he suffered in the playoff loss to New Orleans. He says he'll be ready by the beginning of the season. We'll see about that.

DEFENSE The 2018 season featured inconsistency on this side of the ball for the Eagles, and the stats prove it. They were seventh in the NFL against the run but 30th versus the pass. They allowed the 12th fewest points in the league but were 23rd in total yards allowed. That's why some people were upset when the Birds used just one of their five draft picks — end Shareef Miller — on a defensive player.

The Eagles defense begins and ends up front. Coordinator Jim Schwartz wants to put pressure on the passer with his front four, the better to avoid having to blitz and sacrifice coverage. And given that the team doesn't value linebackers that highly, it's up to the D-line to make a preponderance of plays against the run, too.

It's good that the unit is deep and talented. Tackle Fletcher Cox is one of the league's best and can stuff the run and pressure the pocket. The Eagles signed former Jacksonville tackle Malik Jackson to a three-year, \$30 million deal during the offseason, giving them one of the NFL's top tackle tandems. The team also extended end Brandon Graham, a steady outside performer who spends a lot of time in enemy backfields. Philadelphia hopes third-year end Derek Barnett will continue to blossom after he missed 10 games last year with a shoulder injury. Timmy Jernigan provides depth inside, while veterans Vinny Curry and Chris Long will be part of the end rotation.

Although middle linebacker Nigel Bradham is a strong force in the middle of the defense, outside men Zach Brown (signed as a free agent in May), Nathan Gerry and Kamu Grugier-Hill aren't much more than serviceable. The Eagles said goodbye to Jordan Hicks, a talented player who had issues staying healthy. Paul Worilow and former Steeler L.J. Fort will add depth.

The secondary depth was certainly tested last year. In the blowout loss to the Saints in the regular season, the unit was so banged up, it seemed like the team was asking for volunteers in the crowd to step in and play. The safety line remains strong, provided Rodney McLeod is completely recovered from knee surgery that cost him 13 games last year. Jenkins is a stalwart, but he is getting older. The Eagles signed veteran Andrew Sendejo to provide depth, although he isn't a long-term answer.

It's time to see if Sidney Jones can wrestle a starting corner position from either Ronald Darby or Jalen Mills. At worst, the third-year player will be the team's nickel man. Rasul Douglas, Avonte Maddox and Cre'Von LeBlanc gained valuable experience last year.

SPECIALISTS Cameron Johnston was fourth in the league in punting (48.1-yard average) and in a tie for third in net (42.7). His hang time didn't remind anyone of Ray Guy, but he had an excellent first year. Placekicker Jake Elliott isn't automatic, but he is very good in the clutch. Last year, he made 26-of-31 field goal tries but was only 2-of-5 from 50 and beyond. But when the Birds trailed by three or fewer points, he made 12-of-13. Clement is a solid kick returner, and DeSean Jackson may get the first crack at bringing back punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS Barring a(nother) catastrophic injury to Wentz, the Eagles will once again be one of the best teams in the NFC. Their offense has plenty of weapons, and should the line hold up, Wentz will be able to make complete use of all of them. This should be an extremely dangerous and diverse offensive unit. The question is whether the defense can improve. The acquisition of Malik Jackson will help the interior line, and re-signing Graham was a good move. Cox is moving toward perennial Pro Bowl status and last year earned his first All-Pro first-team nod. So, the front is in good shape, a big thing in Schwartz's defense. But the back end must improve. The Birds have to get sturdier against the pass. Good health will help that. But the corners have to improve their play, too.

This is a top-shelf team with a strong roster and a great culture.



ALSHON JEFFERY



2019 VETERAN EAGLES ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
Perez, Luis				QB	6-3	218	1	Texas A&M-Comm.	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
7 Sudfeld, Nate				QB	6-6	227	3	Indiana	FA-17	D6-Was-16
11 Wentz, Carson				QB	6-5	237	3	North Dakota St.	D1-16	D1-Phi-16
RUNNING BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
33 Adams, Josh				RB	6-2	225	1	Notre Dame	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
30 Clement, Corey				RB	5-10	220	2	Wisconsin	FA-17	FA-Phi-17
24 Howard, Jordan				RB	6-0	224	3	Indiana	T-Chi-19	D5-Chi-16
35 Pumphrey, Donnel				RB	5-9	176	2	San Diego State	FA-18	D4b-Phi-17
49 Scott, Boston				RB	5-6	203	1	Louisiana Tech	PS-NO-18	D6-NO-18
28 Smallwood, Wendell				RB	5-10	208	3	West Virginia	D5a-16	D5a-Phi-16
RECEIVERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
13 Agholor, Nelson				WR	6-0	198	4	USC	D1-15	D1-Phi-15
Agudosi, Carlton				WR	6-6	220	1	Rutgers	FA-19	FA-Ari-17
86 Ertz, Zach				TE	6-5	250	6	Stanford	D2-13	D2-Phi-13
18 Gibson, Shelton				WR	5-11	191	2	West Virginia	D5a-17	D5a-Phi-17
88 Goedert, Dallas				TE	6-5	256	1	South Dakota St.	D2-18	D2-Phi-18
Hollins, Mack				WR	6-4	221	2	North Carolina	D4a-17	D4a-Phi-17
Holton, Johnny				WR	6-1	190	3	Cincinnati	FA-19	FA-Oak-16
10 Jackson, DeSean				WR	5-10	175	11	California	T-TB-19	D2-Phi-08
17 Jeffery, Alshon				WR	6-3	218	7	South Carolina	FA-Chi-17	D2-Chi-12
Johnson, Charles				WR	6-2	217	3	Grand Valley State	FA-19	D7-GB-13
Michel, Marken				WR	5-11	190	1	Massachusetts	FA-19	FA-Min-16
89 Miller, Braxton				WR	6-2	215	3	Ohio State	FA-18	D3-Hou-16
84 Miller, Darren				WR	6-0	196	1	Carson-Newman	FA-18	FA-Jac-18
83 Perkins, Joshua				TE	6-3	223	2	Washington	FA-18	FA-Alt-16
82 Rodgers, Richard				TE	6-4	257	5	California	FA-GB-18	D3b-GB-14
85 Tye, Will				TE	6-2	260	3	Stony Brook	FA-18	FA-NYG-15
Ward, Greg				WR	5-11	186	1	Houston	FA-19	FA-Phi-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
79 Brooks, Brandon				G	6-5	335	7	Miami (OH)	FA-Hou-16	D3-Hou-12
Burwell, Tyreek				T	6-6	310	3	Cincinnati	FA-19	FA-LAC-15
63 Fabiano, Anthony				C	6-4	303	1	Harvard	FA-18	FA-Bal-16
65 Johnson, Lane				T	6-6	317	6	Oklahoma	D1-13	D1-Phi-13
62 Kelce, Jason				C	6-3	295	8	Cincinnati	D6a-11	D6a-Phi-11
68 Mailata, Jordan				T	6-8	346	1	None	D7-18	D7-Phi-18
71 Peters, Jason				T	6-4	328	15	Arkansas	T-Buf-09	FA-Buf-04
69 Pryor, Matt				G/T	6-7	332	1	TCU	D6-18	D6-Phi-18
73 Seumalo, Isaac				OL	6-4	303	3	Oregon State	D3-16	D3-Phi-16
72 Vaitai, Halapoulivaati				T	6-6	320	3	TCU	D5b-16	D5b-Phi-16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
96 Barnett, Derek				DE	6-3	259	2	Tennessee	D1-17	D1-Phi-17
91 Cox, Fletcher				DT	6-4	310	7	Mississippi State	D1-12	D1-Phi-12
Curry, Vinny				DE	6-3	279	7	Marshall	FA-TB-19	D2b-Phi-12
55 Graham, Brandon				DE	6-2	265	9	Michigan	D1-10	D1-Phi-10
74 Hall, Daeshon				DE	6-5	265	2	Texas A&M	PS-Hou-18	D3-Car-17
90 Hector, Bruce				DT	6-2	296	1	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
98 Hester, Treyvon				DT	6-2	304	2	Toledo	FA-18	D7-Oak-17
Jackson, Malik				DT	6-5	290	7	Tennessee	FA-Jac-19	D5-Den-12
93 Jernigan, Tim				DT	6-2	295	5	Florida State	T-Bal-17	D2-Bal-14
56 Long, Chris				DE	6-3	270	11	Virginia	FA-NE-17	D1-LAR-08
95 Ostman, Joe				DE	6-3	259	1	Central Michigan	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
Ridgeway, Hassan				DT	6-3	305	3	Texas	T-Ind-19	D4-Ind-16
75 Sweat, Josh				DE	6-5	251	1	Florida State	D4b-18	D4b-Phi-18
LINEBACKERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59 Bello, B.J.				LB	6-3	229	2	Illinois State	FA-18	FA-Cle-17
53 Bradham, Nigel				LB	6-2	241	7	Florida State	FA-Buf-16	D4-Buf-12
Brown, Zach				LB	6-1	242	7	North Carolina	FA-Was-18	D2-Ten-2
Fort, L.J.				LB	6-0	232	4	Northern Iowa	FA-Pit-19	FA-Cle-12
47 Gerry, Nathan				LB	6-2	230	2	Nebraska	D5b-17	D5b-Phi-17
54 Grugier-Hill, Kamu				LB	6-2	230	3	Eastern Illinois	W-NE-16	D6-NE-16
Singleton, Alex				LB	6-2	232	1	Montana State	FA-19	FA-Sea-15
51 Worrlow, Paul				LB	6-0	230	6	Delaware	FA-Det-18	FA-Alt-13
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
Countess, Blake				CB	5-10	181	3	Auburn	FA-LAR-18	D6-Phi-16
21 Darby, Ronald				CB	5-11	193	4	Florida State	T-Buf-17	D2-Buf-15
32 Douglas, Rasul				CB	6-2	209	2	West Virginia	D3-17	D3-Phi-17
36 Hall, Deiondre				S	6-2	206	3	Northern Iowa	T-Chi-18	D4-Chi-16
48 Hawkins, Josh				CB	5-10	190	3	East Carolina	FA-18	FA-GB-16
Igwebuike, Godwin				S	6-0	212	1	Northwestern	W-SF-19	FA-TB-18
27 Jenkins, Malcolm				S	6-0	204	10	Ohio State	FA-NO-14	D1-NO-09
22 Jones, Sidney				CB	6-0	181	2	Washington	D2-17	D2-Phi-17
34 LeBlanc, Cre'Von				CB	5-10	190	3	Florida Atlantic	W-Det-18	FA-NE-16
29 Maddox, Avonte				CB	5-9	184	1	Pittsburgh	D4a-18	D4a-Phi-18
Maston, Mercy				CB	5-11	208	1	Boise State	FA-19	FA-Phi-19
38 McKinnon, Jeremiah				CB	5-11	192	1	FIU	FA-18	FA-Dal-16
23 McLeod, Rodney				S	5-10	195	7	Virginia	FA-LAR-16	FA-LAR-12
31 Mills, Jalen				CB	6-0	191	3	LSU	D7a-16	D7a-Phi-16
Sendejo, Andrew				S	6-1	210	9	Rice	FA-Min-19	FA-Dal-10
37 Sullivan, Tre				S	6-0	200	1	Shepherd	FA-17	FA-Phi-17
SPECIALISTS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4 Elliott, Jake				K	5-9	167	2	Memphis	PS-Cin-17	D5-Cin-17
1 Johnston, Cameron				P	5-11	194	1	Ohio State	FA-18	FA-Phi-17
45 Lovato, Rick				LS	6-2	249	2	Old Dominion	FA-16	FA-Chi-15

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	17	Alshon Jeffery	JJ Arcega-Whiteside (R)
WR	13	Nelson Agholor	89 Braxton Miller
WR	10	DeSean Jackson	18 Shelton Gibson
LT	71	Jason Peters	Andre Dillard (R)
LG	73	Isaac Seumalo	78 Kaleb Johnson
C	62	Jason Kelce	63 Anthony Fabiano
RG	79	Brandon Brooks	69 Matt Pryor
RT	65	Lane Johnson	72 Halapoulivaati Vaitai
TE	86	Zach Ertz	88 Dallas Goedert
QB	11	Carson Wentz	7 Nate Sudfeld
RB	24	Jordan Howard	Miles Sanders (R)

DEFENSE

DE	55	Brandon Graham	56 Chris Long
DT	91	Fletcher Cox	90 Treyvon Hester
DT		Malik Jackson	93 Timmy Jernigan
DE	96	Derek Barnett	Vinny Curry
OLB		Zach Brown	L.J. Fort
MLB	53	Nigel Bradham	51 Paul Worrlow
OLB	54	Kamu Grugier-Hill	47 Nathan Gerry
CB	31	Jalen Mills	22 Sidney Jones
CB	21	Ronald Darby	32 Rasul Douglas
FS	27	Malcolm Jenkins	Blake Countess
SS	23	Rodney McLeod	Andrew Sendejo

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Jake Elliott	KR	30	Corey Clement
P	1	Cameron Johnston	PR	10	DeSean Jackson

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM	POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Zach Brown		RB	Jay Ajayi	Free Agent
DE	Vinny Curry	Tampa Bay	DE	Michael Bennett	New England
LB	L.J. Fort	Pittsburgh	QB	Nick Foles	Jacksonville
RB	Jordan Howard	Chicago	S	Corey Graham	Free Agent
WR	DeSean Jackson	Tampa Bay	LB	Jordan Hicks	Arizona
DT	Malik Jackson	Jacksonville	WR	Jordan Matthews	San Francisco
S	Andrew Sendejo	Minnesota	WR	Golden Tate	N.Y. Giants
			G	Stefen Wisniewski	Free Agent

KEY LOSSES -

SCOUTING THE EAGLES

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP PHILADELPHIA "The Eagles tried to hold on to the success of 2017 by not tinkering with the roster very much; unfortunately, the post-Super Bowl letdown occurred when they wobbled through much of the season before trying to push the gas pedal in December. ... Nick Foles moves on to Jacksonville, but GM Howie Roseman and head coach Doug Pederson are totally sold on the abilities and leadership of Carson Wentz. With Wentz still on his rookie deal, they know a transition is ahead for their roster with regard to contracts. Still, it has to be concerning that injuries have ended his first two seasons. ... They love Zach Ertz and for good reason. With his 116 receptions and eight touchdowns, he has been machine-like. ... The Golden Tate experiment was a miss, but Alshon Jeffery, Nelson Agholor and DeSean Jackson represent lots of variety. ... They traded for Jordan Howard and will have Corey Clement and Josh Adams in support roles. ... The OL is in excellent shape after they chose tackle Andre Dillard in the first round. ... Fletcher Cox is a dominant NFL player but needs more help from a healthy Derek Barnett and re-signed vet Brandon Graham. Roseman values pass rush, so while they traded Michael Bennett to the Patriots, he added Malik Jackson from the Jaguars and brought back Vinny Curry and Chris Long. ... It's make-or-break time for Sidney Jones, and Ronald Darby has to stay healthy in 2019, but Avonte Maddox was a pleasant surprise as a fourth-round pick. ... This division comes down to the Eagles and Cowboys and most likely will be decided by the health of Wentz."



Eagles

IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Andre Dillard	OT	6-5	310	Washington State
2.	Miles Sanders	RB	5-11	211	Penn State
2.	JJ Arcega-Whiteside	WR	6-2	225	Stanford
4.	Shareef Miller	DE	6-4	254	Penn State
5.	Clayton Thorson	QB	6-4	222	Northwestern

There were those who weren't happy that the Eagles spent four of their five picks on offensive players, given their troubles against the pass last year, but they filled some needs. Andre Dillard is expected to take over at left tackle when Jason Peters retires. Miles Sanders, who replaced Saquon Barkley as Penn State's top ball carrier, is a three-down back who can create space for himself. JJ Arcega-Whiteside is a big, athletic wideout who should help immediately in the red zone. Expect Shareef Miller to be a developmental player on the edge. Clayton Thorson is an athletic quarterback with time to learn.

Outside the Huddle

TOUGH DEPARTURE Nick Foles, who guided the franchise to its only Super Bowl title and who last year led Philadelphia into the playoffs after Carson Wentz was injured again, has moved on to the Jaguars, with whom he signed a four-year, \$88 million contract, with more than \$50 million guaranteed. The Birds had tried to trade Foles, but no market developed. So, they allowed his contract to expire, setting them up to gain a compensatory draft pick, probably a third-rounder, next year. It was a quiet end for an Eagle who will always be beloved.

TOUGH TRANSITION The Eagles' drafting of left tackle Andre Dillard with their first-round pick has made many wonder whether the Jordan Mailata experiment is over. Mailata, the Australian rugby player whom the team picked in the seventh round of the 2018 Draft, showed tremendous athletic ability on the rugby pitch but struggled last year — as expected — to grasp American football. There is still a chance the 6'8", 346-pound Mailata could become a right tackle, but for now, his future is a bit cloudy.

WELCOME BACK DeSean Jackson's return to the Eagles is a vindication for the receiver, who was cut loose by then-coach Chip Kelly after the 2013 season. The move was met with derision, and many wondered whether it was a football decision or due to off-field issues. At the time of Jackson's departure, rumors flew about a conflict between the receiver and Kelly, who was trying to exert complete control over the franchise and the players. Over the past five seasons, Jackson contin-

ued to be a deep threat for Washington and Tampa Bay, and his return rights what many people think to be one of Kelly's many wrongs.

ONE MORE YEAR? There was some drama involving center Jason Kelce during the offseason, when he staged something of a public internal dialogue about whether or not he should retire. Kelce has been a true standout — first-team All-Pro 2017 and '18 — along the line over the past few seasons, but the abuse his relatively light (295 pounds) frame has endured led him to wonder whether it was time to step away. He is back for his ninth season, but it is unreasonable to expect too much more from him.

TRUE LEADER? There was also drama surrounding Wentz during the winter when a local writer reported that several "anonymous" members of the team were unhappy with Wentz's leadership and decision-making. Some said he changed plays to help improve his stats. It created a brief firestorm that led to Wentz's pledging to be a better leader and some staunch defense of the QB from players such as tackle Lane Johnson.

THROWBACKS Eagles fans who pine for the days when their team wore Kelly green jerseys and helmets could get some good news. Owner Jeffrey Lurie, who has spent the last three years expressing a desire to add the color to the team's uniform palate, believes the Birds could don the color as early as next season as an alternate jersey. Although that won't satisfy the fans who want to see an end to the midnight green shirts, it is a step forward.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	10
2015	7
2016	7
2017	13
2018	9

🏆 Playoffs 🏆 Won Super Bowl

NUMBERS TO KNOW

32:25

The Eagles finished second in the NFL in average time of possession, at 32:25.

4.25

Philadelphia allowed just 4.25 points per defensive red zone drive, the second fewest in the NFL.

25.8

The defense stopped opposing running backs for loss or no gain on 25.8 percent of carries against, the second-highest rate in the NFL.



Washington REDSKINS

NFC East Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Dan Snyder
President: Bruce Allen
Senior VP of Player Personnel: Doug Williams
Director of Pro Personnel: Alex Santos
Stadium: FedEx Field (829,000)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.redskins.com
Tickets: 301-276-6800
Training Camp: Bon Secours Washington Redskins Training Center (Richmond, Va.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Jay Gruden
Record With Team: 35-44-1
Career Record: 35-44-1
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin O'Connell
Defensive Coordinator: Greg Manusky
Special Teams Coordinator: Nate Kaczor
Assistant Head Coach/Offensive Line: Bill Callahan
Quarterbacks: Tim Rattay
Running Backs: Randy Jordan
Wide Receivers: Ike Hilliard
Tight Ends: Brian Angelichio
Defensive Line: Jim Tomsula
Inside Linebackers: Rob Ryan
Outside Linebackers: Chad Grimm
Defensive Backs: Ray Horton

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Sept. 15	Dallas	1:00	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Sept. 23	Chicago (Mon.)	8:15	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Sept. 29	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Oct. 6	New England	1:00	11-5	393.4 (5)	359.1 (21)	27.3 (4)	20.3 (7)
Oct. 13	at Miami	1:00	7-9	289.9 (31)	391.1 (29)	19.9 (26)	27.1 (27)
Oct. 20	San Francisco	1:00	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Oct. 24	at Minnesota (Thu.)	8:20	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Nov. 3	at Buffalo	1:00	6-10	298.6 (30)	294.1 (2)	16.8 (30)	23.4 (18)
BYE							
Nov. 17	N.Y. Jets	1:00	4-12	299.2 (29)	380.4 (25)	20.8 (23)	27.6 (29)
Nov. 24	Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Dec. 1	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)
Dec. 8	at Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Dec. 15	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Dec. 22	N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Dec. 29	at Dallas	1:00	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)

The Redskins once defined dysfunction; now, they define mediocrity. Their last four seasons have produced an aggregate 31-32-1 record (with seven to nine wins each year) and one measly playoff appearance. Oh, there's still plenty of dysfunction, too, as when the inevitable reports surfaced over the offseason about friction between head coach Jay Gruden and team president Bruce Allen — denied, of course, by both sides.

Add a heaping portion of horrible luck, as when quarterbacks Alex Smith and Colt McCoy suffered broken legs within two weeks of each other late last season, and you can see how the surreal sight of Mark Sanchez taking snaps for the Redskins in December came to pass.

You can also see how a promising 6-3 start to 2018 — at which point Washington held a two-game lead in the NFC East — devolved into a 7-9 disappointment that, a year later, has 2019 feeling like a crossroads for Gruden, his staff and the entire organization. The gruesome nature of Smith's injury means he won't likely return in 2019 and may be facing the end of his career, forcing the Redskins to look elsewhere to solve their QB issue — which they did through a trade with Denver for Case Keenum and the drafting of Dwayne Haskins at No. 15 overall. But there are major questions here for the franchise to solve if it is going to rise above its mediocre recent past.

OFFENSE How soon until Haskins, the former Ohio State Buckeye with impressive size and immense potential, starts at quarterback? That will be the key question facing the Redskins heading into Week 1. When the team acquired Keenum, it was viewed as largely a stop-gap move, but between Keenum and veteran McCoy, the Redskins at least have experienced options to run the offense while Haskins learns the ropes — if that's the way they choose to go. But quarterbacks taken in the top half of the first round typically start right away.

Either way, the Redskins will be counting on largely the same group of options at the other skill positions to generate yards and points. Washington lacked big-play capabilities the last couple of seasons, but the return of receiver Paul Richardson and running back Derrius Guice from injuries should help. After losing all of 2018 to a torn ACL, Guice could be poised for a breakout season in 2019 — and if not, the fallback is merely future Hall of Famer Adrian Peterson, whom the team signed off the street last August. After watching him rush for 1,042 yards, the Redskins quickly signed the now-34-year-old veteran to a two-year extension. Third down back Chris Thompson is coming off an injury-riddled 2018, and the team may have found his eventual successor in fourth-round

draftee (and former Heisman Trophy runner-up) Bryce Love — who is himself coming off knee surgery.

The Redskins' talented tight ends, Jordan Reed and Vernon Davis, are 29 and 35, respectively, and count a combined \$15 million-plus against the salary cap this season — in other words, it is crucial that they produce.

The somewhat lackluster receiving corps is led by Josh Doctson, who faces a make-or-break season after having largely failed to live up to his first-round pedigree thus far. There are also high hopes within the organization for new draftees Terry McLaurin (third round) and Kelvin Harmon (sixth), either of whom could un-



LB RYAN KERRIGAN



2018 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 9	at Arizona	W	24-6
Sept. 16	Indianapolis	L	9-21
Sept. 23	Green Bay	W	31-17
Oct. 8	at New Orleans	L	19-43
Oct. 14	Carolina	W	23-17
Oct. 21	Dallas	W	20-17
Oct. 28	at N.Y. Giants	W	20-13
Nov. 4	Atlanta	L	14-38
Nov. 11	at Tampa Bay	W	16-3
Nov. 18	Houston	L	21-23
Nov. 22	at Dallas	L	23-31
Dec. 3	at Philadelphia	L	13-28
Dec. 9	N.Y. Giants	L	16-40
Dec. 16	at Jacksonville	W	16-13
Dec. 22	at Tennessee	L	16-25
Dec. 30	Philadelphia	L	0-24

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING		ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Alex Smith		328	205	2,180	10	5
Josh Johnson		91	52	590	3	4
RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Adrian Peterson		251	1,042	4.2	7	
Chris Thompson		43	178	4.1	0	
Alex Smith		41	168	4.1	1	
RECEIVING		REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jordan Reed		54	558	10.3	2	
Josh Doctson		44	532	12.1	2	
Jamison Crowder		29	388	13.4	2	
Vernon Davis		25	367	14.7	2	
Maurice Harris		28	304	10.9	0	

KICKING: Dustin Hopkins, 26-29 FGs, 25-26 PAT, 103 points

TACKLES: Mason Foster, 131; Zach Brown, 96

SACKS: Ryan Kerrigan, 13.0; Jonathan Allen, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: D.J. Swearinger, 4; Josh Norman, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	299.7	28	15
Rushing	110.9	17	8
Passing	188.8	28	15
Scoring	17.6	29	15
Third Down %	36.4	24	13
Punt Returns	6.5	T23	T8
Kick Returns	19.7	30	15

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	353.4	17	9
Rushing	116.3	17	10
Passing	237.1	15	9
Scoring	22.4	15	7
Interceptions	15	T9	T4
Sacks	46	7	5
Turnover Differential	+7	T8	5

seat Trey Quinn as the top slot receiver out of the gate.

After spending the past two seasons with a makeshift offensive line thanks to a rash of injuries, the Redskins used free agency (former first-round pick Ereck Flowers) and two picks in the draft to build interior depth up front between veteran tackles Trent Williams and Morgan Moses.

DEFENSE The additions of inside linebacker Reuben Foster (waivers), strong safety Landon Collins (free agent), and edge rusher Montez Sweat (first round

of draft), combined with holdovers Daron Payne, Jonathan Allen and Matt Ioannidis on the defensive line, give the Redskins' defense an enviable core of 25-and-under talent.

Signing Collins away from the rival New York Giants on an \$84 million contract may have been an overpay for a box safety, but it was a necessary one after the team parted ways with D.J. Swearinger in December. The other safety slot could belong to Montae Nicholson if he gets his off-field issues ironed out.

The drafting of Sweat at No. 26 overall gives the Redskins a much-needed speed-rusher to help shore up their third down defense, which was atrocious in 2018; his eye-popping 40-yard-dash time of 4.41 at the NFL Combine was faster than the likes of Odell Beckham Jr., Tyrann Mathieu and Amari Cooper have posted in years past.

There were rumblings the Redskins might move on this offseason from veteran cornerback Josh Norman, whom the team made the highest-paid cover man in the game in 2016. Instead, they kept the 31-year-old, and Gruden challenged Norman by name to play like a superstar in 2019. Norman and Quinton Dunbar are locked in as the starting corners as long as they're healthy.

Up front, Payne, a first-round pick in 2018, transformed the run defense almost overnight; in 2019, Payne, Ioannidis (recently signed to a contract extension) and Allen will again anchor what should be one of the league's best defensive lines.

SPECIALISTS Special teams could be the Redskins' strongest unit — that's not something any team wants to hear, but it beats being torpedoed by your own special teams, as this franchise has been in the past.

Washington should have mostly the same cast of characters back from 2018 — aside from a new coordinator, Nate Kaczor, replacing Ben Kotwica — led by punter Tress Way and placekicker Dustin Hopkins, both of whom put up the best seasons of their careers last year. Way was middle of the pack in average yards per punt in 2018, but of more importance, he paced the NFL with 41 punts downed inside the 20-yard line. Hopkins, meantime, went a perfect 12-of-12 on field goals under 40 yards and — after facing questions about his leg strength — a near-perfect 4-for-5 on 50-yard-plus tries.

In the return game, the Redskins may lack an electrifying option for either punts or kickoffs, but in Greg Stroman, a seventh-rounder in 2018, they at least have a solid in-house option who handled the job for chunks of last season.

FINAL ANALYSIS The stakes will be high at FedEx Field this season — the Redskins haven't made the playoffs since the 2015 season and haven't won a playoff game since the 2005 season. And Gruden, the longest-tenured Redskins head coach since Norv Turner two decades earlier, will almost certainly see his job security threatened if there isn't solid improvement from 2018. This reality will color every decision the team makes heading into Week 1 — including, and especially, the choice of a starting quarterback.

The schedule, at least, is in Washington's favor, as their 2019 opponents had a combined .469 winning percentage in 2018, the lowest of any team in the NFL.

The Redskins' defense should give them a chance to win most weeks, but in an increasingly high-flying, quarterback-driven league, a defense-first approach is a rare strategy. There is every reason, in other words, to expect another middling seven- to nine-win season, with the potential to be much better, or much worse, depending on how things break. And given the misery, strife and misfortune of the past couple of seasons, the odds, if nothing else, will be in Washington's favor.



JOSH NORMAN



2019 VETERAN REDSKINS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
8 Keenum, Case	QB	6-1	215	6	Houston	T-Den-19	FA-Hou-12
12 McCoy, Colt	QB	6-1	210	9	Texas	FA-SF-14	D3-Cle-10
11 Smith, Alex	QB	6-4	213	14	Utah	T-KC-18	D1-SF-05
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
29 Guice, Derrius	RB	5-11	225	1	LSU	D2-18	D2-Was-18
22 Hansbrough, Russell	RB	5-9	195	1	Missouri	FA-18	FA-TB-16
34 Marshall, Byron	RB	5-9	225	2	Oregon	PS-Phi-17	FA-Phi-16
32 Perine, Samaje	RB	5-11	233	2	Oklahoma	D4a-17	D4a-Was-17
26 Peterson, Adrian	RB	6-1	220	12	Oklahoma	FA-18	D1-Min-07
25 Thompson, Chris	RB	5-8	195	5	Florida State	D5a-13	D5a-Was-13
Wellman, Elijah	FB	6-2	243	1	West Virginia	FA-18	FA-Was-18
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
16 Chesson, Jehu	WR	6-2	204	3	Michigan	FA-18	D4-KC-17
19 Davis, Robert	WR	6-3	212	1	Georgia State	D6b-17	D6b-Was-17
85 Davis, Vernon	TE	6-3	244	13	Maryland	FA-Den-16	D1-SF-06
18 Doctson, Josh	WR	6-2	202	3	TCU	D1-16	D1-Was-16
88 Flanagan, Matt	TE	6-6	260	1	Pittsburgh	FA-18	FA-Was-18
82 Garner, Manasseh	TE	6-2	240	1	Pittsburgh	FA-17	FA-KC-15
82 Holtz, J.P.	TE	6-3	240	1	Pittsburgh	FA-18	FA-Cle-16
84 Kiddy, Darwin	WR	6-0	180	1	Texas Southern	FA-18	FA-Was-18
83 Quick, Brian	WR	6-4	215	7	Appalachian State	FA-17	D2-STL-12
14 Quinn, Trey	WR	6-0	200	1	SMU	D7b-18	D7b-Was-18
86 Reed, Jordan	TE	6-2	245	6	Florida	D3-13	D3-Was-13
10 Richardson Jr., Paul	WR	6-0	180	5	Colorado	FA-Sea-18	D2a-Sea-14
89 Sims, Cam	WR	6-5	214	1	Alabama	FA-18	FA-Was-18
87 Sprinkle, Jeremy	TE	6-5	252	2	Arkansas	D5-17	D5-Was-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
66 Bergstrom, Tony	OL	6-5	310	7	Utah	FA-17	D3-Oak-12
68 Catalina, Tyler	G	6-6	315	2	Georgia	FA-17	FA-Was-17
74 Christian Sr., Geron	T	6-5	302	1	Louisville	D3-18	D3-Was-18
55 Dunn, Casey	C	6-4	300	1	Auburn	FA-18	FA-Was-18
77 Flowers, Ereck	OL	6-6	329	4	Miami	FA-Jac-19	D1-NYG-15
63 Joseph, Roubbens	OL	6-4	325	1	Buffalo	FA-18	FA-Bat-17
67 Kerin, Zac	G	6-5	305	4	Toledo	FA-18	FA-Min-14
76 Moses, Morgan	T	6-6	335	5	Virginia	D3a-14	D3a-Was-14
61 Parris, Timon	T	6-6	315	1	Stony Brook	FA-18	FA-Was-18
73 Roullier, Chase	C	6-4	310	2	Wyoming	D6a-17	D6a-Was-17
75 Scherff, Brandon	G	6-5	315	4	Iowa	D1-15	D1-Was-15
71 Williams, Trent	T	6-5	320	9	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-Was-10
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
93 Allen, Jonathan	DL	6-3	294	2	Alabama	D1-17	D1-Was-17
99 Brantley, Caleb	DL	6-2	307	2	Florida	FA-18	D6-Cle-17
96 Ioannidis, Matt	DL	6-3	305	3	Temple	D5-16	D5-Was-16
94 Payne, Daron	DL	6-3	319	1	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Was-18
97 Settle, Tim	DL	6-3	328	1	Virginia Tech	D5-18	D5-Was-18
64 Wicker, JoJo	DT	6-2	296	1	Arizona State	FA-18	FA-Det-18
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
52 Anderson, Ryan	LB	6-2	253	2	Alabama	D2-17	D2-Was-17
Ankrah, Andrew	LB	6-4	248	1	James Madison	FA-19	FA-Was-19
46 Flowers, Marquis	LB	6-2	245	5	Arizona	FA-18	D6-Cin-14
54 Foster, Mason	LB	6-1	250	8	Washington	FA-15	D3-TB-11
56 Foster, Reuben	LB	6-1	228	2	Alabama	FA-18	D1-SF-17
Gates, DeMarquis	LB	6-2	230	1	Ole Miss	FA-19	FA-Cle-18
51 Hamilton, Shaun Dion	LB	6-0	235	1	Alabama	D6-18	D6-Was-18
40 Harvey-Clemons, Josh	LB	6-4	230	2	Louisville	D7a-17	D7a-Was-17
91 Kerrigan, Ryan	LB	6-4	259	8	Purdue	D1-11	D1-Was-11
58 McKinzy, Cassanova	LB	6-3	257	1	Auburn	FA-TB-16	FA-TB-16
58 Smith, Marcus	LB	6-3	258	5	Louisville	FA-18	D1-Phi-14
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
39 Alexander, Adonis	CB	6-3	197	1	Virginia Tech	SD6-18	SD6-Was-18
30 Apke, Troy	S	6-1	200	1	Penn State	D4-18	D4-Was-18
20 Collins, Landon	S	6-0	222	4	Alabama	FA-NYG-19	D2-NYG-15
23 Dunbar, Quinton	CB	6-2	197	4	Florida	FA-15	FA-Was-15
22 Everett, Deshaazor	S	6-0	195	4	Texas A&M	FA-15	FA-TB-15
38 Holsey, Joshua	CB	5-11	195	1	Auburn	D7b-17	D7b-Was-17
41 Johnson, Danny	CB	5-9	181	1	Southern	FA-18	FA-Was-18
31 Moreau, Fabian	CB	6-0	200	2	UCLA	D3-17	D3-Was-17
35 Nicholson, Montae	S	6-2	215	2	Michigan State	D4b-17	D4b-Was-17
24 Norman, Josh	CB	6-0	200	7	Coastal Carolina	FA-Car-16	D5-Car-12
45 Reaves, Jeremy	S	5-11	205	1	South Alabama	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
Rodgers-Cromartie, D.	CB	6-2	203	11	Tennessee State	FA-19	D1-Ari-08
37 Stroman, Greg	CB	5-11	180	1	Virginia Tech	D7a-18	D7a-Was-18
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
55 East, Andrew	LS	6-2	220	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-KC-15
3 Hopkins, Dustin	K	6-2	203	5	Florida State	FA-15	D6-Buf-13
57 Sundberg, Nick	LS	6-0	256	9	California	FA-10	FA-Car-09
5 Way, Tress	P	6-1	216	5	Oklahoma	W-Chi-14	FA-Chi-13

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	18	Josh Doctson	16	Jehu Chesson
WR	10	Paul Richardson	83	Brian Quick
WR	14	Trey Quinn		Terry McLaurin (R)
LT	71	Trent Williams	74	Geron Christian
LG	77	Ereck Flowers	68	Tyler Catalina
C	73	Chase Roullier		Ross Pierschbacher (R)
RG	75	Brandon Scherff		Wes Martin (R)
RT	76	Morgan Moses	63	Roubbens Joseph
TE	86	Jordan Reed	85	Vernon Davis
QB	8	Case Keenum	7	Dwayne Haskins (R)
RB	26	Adrian Peterson	29	Derrius Guice

DEFENSE

DE		Montez Sweat (R)	98	Matt Ioannidis
NT	94	Daron Payne	97	Tim Settle
DE	93	Jonathan Allen	99	Caleb Brantley
OLB	91	Ryan Kerrigan	46	Marquis Flowers
ILB	54	Mason Foster	51	Shaun Dion Hamilton
ILB	56	Reuben Foster	40	Josh Harvey-Clemons
OLB	52	Ryan Anderson	58	Cassanova McKinzy
CB	24	Josh Norman	31	Fabian Moreau
CB	23	Quinton Dunbar	37	Greg Stroman
SS	20	Landon Collins	35	Montae Nicholson
FS	22	Deshaazor Everett	30	Troy Apke

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Dustin Hopkins	KR	37	Greg Stroman
P	5	Tress Way	PR	37	Greg Stroman

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
SS	Landon Collins	N.Y. Giants
OT	Ereck Flowers	Jacksonville
QB	Case Keenum	Denver
CB	D. Rodgers-Cromartie	Oakland

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
FS	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	Chicago
WR	Jamison Crowder	N.Y. Jets
WR	Maurice Harris	New England
OT	Ty Nsekhe	Buffalo
LB	Preston Smith	Green Bay

SCOUTING THE REDSKINS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP WASHINGTON "Personnel-wise, this is clearly the least talented team in the division. ... With the tragic injury to Alex Smith, they traded for Case Keenum and then drafted Ohio State's Dwayne Haskins. ... Keenum and his 26-28 record as a starter is a perfect match for his new team (31-32-1 since 2015). Haskins may get a chance to win the job in training camp, but he is especially young at the position. ... They are hopeful that Derrius Guice can return to his college form and become the focal point of their offense. ... The wide receiver group is a total mess with them still waiting on Josh Doctson to become a No. 1. Paul Richardson was a free agent washout, and Jamison Crowder exited to the Jets during free agency. ... Jordan Reed is their best offensive player, and he managed 54 catches despite missing three more games. ... The OL is adequate because of former first-rounders Trent Williams and Brandon Scherff. ... The defensive line is their best unit. Ryan Kerrigan has racked up 84.5 sacks in eight seasons and is finally getting his due outside the league's pro scouts. They bolted back into the first round for defensive end Montez Sweat, a freakish tester. ... Mason Foster puts in a day's work every game (131 tackles in 2018). Landon Collins was their big free agency splash when he signed for \$45 million guaranteed. While he is an explosive hitter, his coverage tailed off in 2018 after he had posted eight interceptions in the previous three seasons. Can't imagine Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie having much left. ... I'm expecting that the Redskins take a step backwards and finish with less than six wins."



A-

Redskins

IN THE DRAFT



RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Dwayne Haskins	QB	6-3	231	Ohio State
1.	Montez Sweat	DE	6-6	260	Mississippi State
3.	Terry McLaurin	WR	6-0	208	Ohio State
4.	Bryce Love	RB	5-9	200	Stanford
4.	Wes Martin	OG	6-3	311	Indiana
5.	Ross Pierschbacher	OG	6-4	307	Alabama
5.	Cole Holcomb	OLB	6-1	231	North Carolina
6.	Kelvin Harmon	WR	6-2	221	NC State
7.	Jimmy Moreland	CB	5-10	179	James Madison
7.	Jordan Brailford	DE	6-3	252	Oklahoma State

Dwayne Haskins is not exactly a "project," but also not a clear candidate to open the season as the starter. The franchise was prepared to trade up to get Haskins; by standing pat and getting him anyway at No. 15 overall, then trading up to pick Montez Sweat at 26, the team drew rave reviews for their first-round picks. There's little question Sweat will have an immediate impact as an edge rusher opposite veteran Ryan Kerrigan. Bryce Love, coming off ACL surgery, is another intriguing pick and will have a chance over time to grow into a role as a third down back, while the selections of offensive linemen Wes Martin and Ross Pierschbacher reflected the Redskins' need for line depth after being decimated by injuries the past two seasons.

Outside the Huddle

NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME The Redskins' 2019 schedule, aside from being the easiest (by opponents' 2018 winning percentage) in the league, also reflects the franchise's steep fall as a marquee draw. Washington was dropped from the Thanksgiving slate this season, and they'll make single appearances on both "Monday Night Football" and "Thursday Night Football."

BAD LUCK Every disappointing team in the league can point to injuries as their excuse, but the 2018 Redskins have a stronger case than most. They had a league-high 24 players land on injured reserve last season, including four rookies.

LEADERSHIP The continued presence around Redskins Park of quarterback Alex Smith, even while likely sidelined for all of 2019, could be an important factor in the development of rookie Dwayne Haskins. Smith has a strong track record for mentoring young QBs, having done so with both Colin Kaepernick (in San Francisco) and Patrick Mahomes (in Kansas City).

REVOLVING DOOR Haskins was the fourth quarterback taken by the Redskins in the first round of the draft since 2002, but none of the previous three — Patrick Ramsey, Jason Campbell and Robert Griffin III — proved to be a long-term solution at the position.

RUMORS There were multiple media reports in the wake of Joe Flacco's trade from Baltimore to Denver that the Redskins attempted to acquire the veteran quarterback. Instead, the Broncos got Flacco and traded Keenum to Washington.

VETERAN STAFF The Redskins hired two former defensive coordinators to their coaching staff, in defensive backs coach Ray Horton and inside linebackers coach Rob Ryan, joining defensive line coach Jim Tomsula, a former NFL head coach himself. The high-profile nature of the team's defensive staff serves to underscore the precarious position of current coordinator Greg Manusky, who appeared on his way out in January before the Redskins pivoted and decided to bring him back for a third season.

BUDDIES President Donald Trump made waves in D.C. in April, during an appearance on a local talk radio show, by saying Redskins owner Dan Snyder is "really a good guy" who has "done a very good job." Snyder donated \$1 million to Trump's inauguration celebration, one of several NFL owners who did so. Snyder also explored legislative measures in order to facilitate moving the team from Maryland back to D.C.

SECOND CHANCE In April, the league announced that it would not suspend linebacker Reuben Foster, who was twice arrested for domestic violence last year while a member of the San Francisco 49ers. The league's investigation found that Foster did not violate the league's personal-conduct policy, but he was fined two game checks for violating the terms of its agreement with him following a two-game suspension in 2018. He had been on the NFL's Commissioner's Exempt List since November. He was released Nov. 24 and claimed on waivers by the Redskins three days later, a move met with criticism at the time.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	4
2015	9
2016	8
2017	7
2018	7

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

47.9

The Redskins punted on 47.9 percent of their offensive drives, the fourth-highest rate in the NFL ...

35.6

And opponents were forced to punt on just 35.6 percent of drives, the fifth-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.4

Washington lost fumbles on just 2.4 percent of its offensive drives, tied for the fourth-lowest rate in the NFL.



Chicago BEARS

NFC North Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Chairman: George H. McCaskey
President/CEO: Ted Phillips
General Manager: Ryan Pace
Director of Player Personnel: Josh Lucas
Stadium: Soldier Field (61,500)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.chicagobears.com
Tickets: 847-615-BEAR (2327)
Training Camp: Olivet Nazarene University (Bourbonnais, Ill.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt Nagy
Record With Team: 12-4
Career Record: 12-4
Offensive Coordinator: Mark Helfrich
Defensive Coordinator: Chuck Pagano
Special Teams Coordinator: Chris Tabor
Quarterbacks: Dave Ragone
Running Backs: Charles London
Wide Receivers: Mike Furrey
Tight Ends: Kevin Gilbride
Offensive Line: Harry Hiestand
Defensive Line: Jay Rodgers
Inside Linebackers: Mark DeLeone
Senior Defensive Assistant/
Outside Linebackers: Ted Monachino
Secondary: Deshaea Townsend

2019 Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time
Sept. 5	Green Bay (Thu.)	8:20
Sept. 15	at Denver	4:25
Sept. 23	at Washington (Mon.)	8:15
Sept. 29	Minnesota	4:25
Oct. 6	vs. Oakland (London)	1:00
BYE		
Oct. 20	New Orleans	4:25
Oct. 27	L.A. Chargers	1:00
Nov. 3	at Philadelphia	1:00
Nov. 10	Detroit	1:00
Nov. 17	at L.A. Rams	8:20
Nov. 24	N.Y. Giants	1:00
Nov. 28	at Detroit (Thu.)	12:30
Dec. 5	Dallas (Thu.)	8:20
Dec. 15	at Green Bay	1:00
Dec. 22	Kansas City	8:20
Dec. 29	at Minnesota	1:00

2018 NFL RANKINGS

2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)
6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)
9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)
12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)

There's nothing short of a Super Bowl that Matt Nagy can produce in his second year as the Bears' head coach that can top the unexpected resurrection he orchestrated in 2018. In his first season as a head coach at any level, Nagy elevated a team that had suffered through four consecutive last-place finishes in the NFC North to a division title and a 12-4 record, the franchise's best in 12 years. But the NFL Coach of the Year faces a whole new set of challenges in 2019, the most difficult of which figures to be much greater expectations than any Bears team has faced in at least a decade. The 2018 season ended in a disappointing defeat in the wild card round, but almost every key player is back. The schedule, however, is much more difficult than last year's. In 2018, the Bears had one of the NFL's easiest schedules; in 2019, they face a slate that is tied for fifth-most difficult based on 2018 records.

OFFENSE The Bears have hitched their wagon to quarterback Mitchell Trubisky, for better or worse. Given a much better supporting cast in 2018, Trubisky showed significant improvement over an unimpressive rookie campaign, but there is still much room for improvement if he is to become a franchise quarterback. Trubisky's ability to escape the rush and make plays with his legs helped turn potential negative plays into positive gains on multiple occasions. But he also struggled with inconsistent accuracy as a passer, a flaw that must be addressed if he is to live up to his draft status as the second overall pick.

After Allen Robinson II missed all but three plays in 2017 because of a torn ACL, the big, physical wide receiver served notice that he could be Trubisky's go-to guy for many years. Starting slowly as he worked his way back to 100 percent, Robinson caught 55 balls for 754 yards, despite missing three games. Entering his age-26 season, there's no reason the 6'3", 211-pound Robinson shouldn't be all the way back this year to his 2015-16 form, when he caught 153 passes for 2,283 yards and 20 touchdowns. Taylor Gabriel gave Nagy a gadgety weapon, catching 67 passes for 688 yards, but he didn't provide as many big plays as hoped. Anthony Miller flashed as a rookie and led the team with seven TD catches, but he faded down the stretch, in part because of a chronic shoulder injury that the Bears hope offseason surgery will fix.

Veteran tight end Trey Burton had a breakout season in his first year in Chicago, but the Bears need the athletic pass-catching weapon to take another step if the offense is to do the same in 2019. Adam Shaheen, a 2017 second-round pick, needs to stay healthy and turn potential into production after two mostly disappointing seasons.

Third-round running back David Montgomery is a much better fit in Nagy's offense than departed Jordan Howard, particularly as a receiver. What remains to be seen is how

he fits in with free agent addition Mike Davis, who has similar versatility but lacks the "wow" factor of the diminutive Tarik Cohen. Montgomery possesses many of the tackle-breaking, make-you-miss qualities of Kareem Hunt, who led the NFL in rushing as a rookie in the Chiefs' offense when Nagy was the offensive coordinator, so he could quickly become the starter. At 5'6" and 181 pounds, Cohen is more a complementary player than a workhorse, although he is an excellent receiver who led the Bears with 71 catches in 2018. Nagy intends to use all three in the committee approach he favors.

The O-line returns all five starters after right tackle Bobby Massie was re-signed. But it appears left



OLB **Khalil Mack**



2018 RESULTS (12-4)

Sept. 9	at Green Bay	L	23-24
Sept. 17	Seattle	W	24-17
Sept. 23	at Arizona	W	16-14
Sept. 30	Tampa Bay	W	48-10
Oct. 14	at Miami (ot)	L	28-31
Oct. 21	New England	L	31-38
Oct. 28	N.Y. Jets	W	24-10
Nov. 4	at Buffalo	W	41-9
Nov. 11	Detroit	W	34-22
Nov. 18	Minnesota	W	25-20
Nov. 22	at Detroit	W	23-16
Dec. 2	at N.Y. Giants (ot)	L	27-30
Dec. 9	L.A. Rams	W	15-6
Dec. 16	Green Bay	W	24-17
Dec. 23	at San Francisco	W	14-9
Dec. 30	at Minnesota	W	24-10
Postseason			
Jan. 6	Philadelphia	L	15-16

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Mitchell Trubisky	434	289	3,223	24	12
Chase Daniel	76	53	515	3	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Jordan Howard	250	935	3.7	9	
Tarik Cohen	99	444	4.5	3	
Mitchell Trubisky	68	421	6.2	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Allen Robinson II	55	754	13.7	4	
Tarik Cohen	71	725	10.2	5	
Taylor Gabriel	67	688	10.3	2	
Trey Burton	54	569	10.5	6	
Anthony Miller	33	423	12.8	7	

KICKING: Cody Parkey, 23-30 FGs, 42-45 PAT, 111 points

TACKLES: Roquan Smith, 121; Danny Trevathan, 102

SACKS: Khalil Mack, 12.5; Akiem Hicks, 7.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Kyle Fuller, 7; Eddie Jackson, 6

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	343.9	21	12
Rushing	121.1	11	6
Passing	222.8	21	12
Scoring	26.3	9	4
Third Down %	41.0	11	7
Punt Returns	12.5	2	1
Kick Returns	19.1	32	16

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	299.7	3	1
Rushing	80.0	1	1
Passing	219.7	7	3
Scoring	17.7	1	1
Interceptions	27	1	1
Sacks	50	T3	T1
Turnover Differential	+12	3	2

guard James Daniels and center Cody Whitehair will flip-flop their 2018 positions, putting both in their most natural spot. Daniels transitioned into a starter as a rookie, shortly after his 21st birthday. Right guard Kyle Long is a major force when healthy and a team leader, but he's got a lengthy injury history, having played in just 26 games the past three seasons. Left tackle Charles Leno Jr. doesn't get much credit, but he doesn't get beat much, either.

DEFENSE The Bears have entrusted new coordinator Chuck Pagano with arguably the NFL's best defense. The former Colts head coach replaces well-respected Vic Fangio, who was hired as the Broncos head coach. In four years in Chicago, Fangio built a powerhouse, and almost every key contributor returns. The Bears lost safety Adrian Amos and nickel corner Bryce Callahan in free agency. But they swapped in Ha Ha Clinton-Dix at safety and Buster Skrine at nickel, and any change is expected to be negligible. The Bears might even be better, considering Clinton-Dix has 14 interceptions in five seasons and was a Pro Bowler in 2016 with the Packers, and Skrine has 85 starts and nine interceptions in eight seasons.

The unit boasts Pro Bowl players at all three levels, including Akiem Hicks at left end, Khalil Mack at outside linebacker, cornerback Kyle Fuller and safety Eddie Jackson. The 2018 Bears led the NFL with 36 takeaways and 27 interceptions and set a franchise record for fewest rushing yards allowed in a 16-game season. Hicks provides stout run support and much better pass rush than expected from a 332-pounder; he has 21.5 sacks in his three seasons with the Bears. Without the benefit of training camp or the preseason, Mack stepped into a new system and led the Bears with 12.5 sacks in 14 games while forcing six fumbles. His overall play was rightfully credited with helping a great defense become elite. Fuller tied for the NFL lead with seven interceptions, while Jackson picked off six passes and returned two of them, and a fumble recovery, for touchdowns. In just two seasons, Jackson has five return touchdowns.

The four Pro Bowlers get plenty of support from teammates who haven't yet received the same accolades but are valuable contributors. Nose tackle Eddie Goldman anchors the front against the run, and 2018 fifth-round defensive lineman Bilal Nichols worked his way into the starting lineup by the final month of the season. At inside linebacker, Danny Trevathan is a consistent veteran presence in both phases, while Roquan Smith flashed Pro Bowl potential as a rookie with five sacks and a team-best 121 tackles. Outside linebacker Leonard Floyd enjoyed his healthiest season yet but has only flashed the massive potential that made him the ninth overall draft pick in 2016. Playing across from Mack should help propel him to the next level, where his athleticism and versatility allow him to contribute in coverage and make him a pass-rush threat in addition to a sideline-to-side-line run supporter. Eight-year veteran cornerback Prince Amukamara had perhaps his best season, tying a career high with three interceptions.

SPECIALISTS Cody Parkey failed in the latest attempt to replace Robbie Gould, as has every kicker employed by the Bears since they inexplicably cut their longtime stalwart before the 2016 season. Parkey missed seven field goals and three missed extra points in the regular season and then famously missed the potential game winner in the wild card round of the playoffs. An open competition will be held to find his replacement. Cohen is an electric punt returner who can also return kickoffs, but the Bears would like to use him only on punts.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's entirely possible the Bears could be a better team this year and still not match last year's 12-4 record because they face a more difficult schedule, at least on paper. But this is a team built to win now, with a roster full of ascendant players who are at their peak or still approaching it. Pagano has vowed not to tinker too much with the successful defense Fangio built, and he inherits a wealth of talent. On offense, GM Ryan Pace has helped procure players who better fit Nagy's offense, and it will be that unit that determines whether or not the Bears advance beyond the first round of the playoffs. Anything less would be a disappointment.



MITCHELL TRUBISKY



2019 VETERAN BEARS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
9	Bray, Tyler	QB	6-6	215	6	Tennessee		FA-KC-18		FA-KC-13
4	Daniel, Chase	QB	6-0	225	9	Missouri		FA-NO-18		FA-Was-09
10	Trubisky, Mitchell	QB	6-3	222	2	North Carolina		D1-17		D1-Chi-17
RUNNING BACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
46	Burton, Michael	FB	6-0	240	4	Rutgers		FA-17		D5-Det-15
29	Cohen, Tarik	RB	5-6	181	2	North Carolina A&T		D4b-17		D4b-Chi-17
25	Davis, Mike	RB	5-9	217	4	South Carolina		FA-Sea-19		D4-SF-15
33	Mizzell Sr., Taquan	RB	5-10	185	2	Virginia		W-Bal-17		FA-Bal-17
35	Nall, Ryan	RB	6-2	232	1	Oregon State		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
RECEIVERS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
84	Brauneker, Ben	TE	6-4	252	3	Harvard		FA-16		FA-Chi-16
80	Burton, Trey	TE	6-3	235	5	Florida		FA-Phi-18		FA-Phi-14
18	Gabriel, Taylor	WR	5-8	165	5	Abilene Christian		FA-Atl-18		FA-Cle-14
19	Gentry, Tanner	WR	6-2	209	1	Wyoming		FA-17		FA-Chi-17
14	Grayson Jr., Cyril	WR	5-9	183	2	LSU		FA-18		FA-Sea-17
13	Hall, Marvin	WR	5-10	190	2	Washington		FA-Atl-19		FA-Oak-16
17	Miller, Anthony	WR	5-11	190	1	Memphis		D2b-18		D2b-Chi-18
	Patterson, Cordarrelle	WR	6-2	228	6	Tennessee		FA-NE-19		D1c-Min-13
12	Robinson II, Allen	WR	6-3	211	5	Penn State		FA-Jac-18		D2a-Jac-14
87	Shaheen, Adam	TE	6-6	270	2	Ashland		D2-17		D2-Chi-17
81	Williams-Lambert, Jordan	WR	6-3	227	1	Ball State		FA-19		FA-NO-16
83	Wims, Javon	WR	6-4	215	1	Georgia		D7-18		D7-Chi-18
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
60	Allen, Dejon	OL	6-3	290	1	Hawaii		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
67	Beavers, Willie	OL	6-5	324	1	Western Michigan		FA-19		D4-Min-16
69	Coward, Rashaad	OL	6-6	320	1	Old Dominion		FA-17		FA-Chi-17
68	Daniels, James	OL	6-4	295	1	Iowa		D2a-18		D2a-Chi-18
62	Larsen, Ted	OL	6-3	323	9	NC State		FA-Mia-19		D6-NE-10
72	Leno Jr., Charles	OL	6-3	306	5	Boise State		D7-14		D7-Chi-14
75	Long, Kyle	OL	6-6	316	6	Oregon		D1-13		D1-Chi-13
63	Lucas, Cornelius	OL	6-9	328	5	Kansas State		FA-19		FA-Det-14
70	Massie, Bobby	OL	6-6	317	7	Ole Miss		FA-Ari-16		D4-Ari-12
79	Sowell, Bradley	OL	6-7	312	7	Ole Miss		FA-Sea-17		FA-TB-12
65	Whitehair, Cody	OL	6-4	310	3	Kansas State		D2-16		D2-Chi-16
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
76	Anderson, Abdullah	DL	6-4	295	1	Bucknell		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
90	Bullard, Jonathan	DE	6-3	296	3	Florida		D3-16		D3-Chi-16
91	Goldman, Eddie	NT	6-4	320	4	Florida State		D2-15		D2-Chi-15
96	Hicks, Akiem	DE	6-5	332	7	Regina		FA-NE-16		D3-NO-12
98	Nichols, Bilal	DE	6-4	290	1	Delaware		D5-18		D5-Chi-18
95	Robertson-Harris, Roy	DE	6-7	294	2	UTEP		FA-16		FA-Chi-16
97	Williams, Nick	DT	6-4	310	5	Samford		FA-17		D7-Pit-13
LINEBACKERS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
49	Fitts, Kylie	LB	6-4	260	1	Utah		D6-18		D6-Chi-18
94	Floyd, Leonard	LB	6-4	251	3	Georgia		D1-16		D1-Chi-16
47	Irving, Isaiah	LB	6-3	254	2	San Jose State		FA-17		FA-Chi-17
45	Iyiebuniwe, Joel	LB	6-1	230	1	Western Kentucky		D4-18		D4-Chi-18
44	Kwiatkoski, Nick	LB	6-2	242	3	West Virginia		D4a-16		D4a-Chi-16
99	Lynch, Aaron	LB	6-6	270	5	South Florida		FA-SF-18		D5-SF-14
52	Mack, Khalil	LB	6-3	252	5	Buffalo		T-Oak-18		D1-Oak-14
58	Smith, Roquan	LB	6-1	236	1	Georgia		D1-18		D1-Chi-18
53	Thurman, Jameer	LB	6-0	215	1	Indiana State		FA-19		FA-Chi-19
59	Trevathan, Danny	LB	6-1	239	7	Kentucky		FA-Den-16		D6-Den-12
46	Vaughters, James	LB	6-2	258	1	Stanford		FA-19		FA-GB-15
55	Woods, Josh	LB	6-1	204	1	Maryland		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
20	Amukamara, Prince	DB	6-0	204	8	Nebraska		FA-Jac-17		D1-NYG-11
26	Bush, Deon	DB	6-0	205	3	Miami		D4b-16		D4b-Chi-16
21	Clinton-Dix, Ha Ha	DB	6-1	208	5	Alabama		FA-Was-19		D1-GB-14
29	Fant, Rashard	DB	5-10	180	1	Indiana		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
32	Franklin III, John	DB	6-1	186	1	FAU		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
23	Fuller, Kyle	DB	5-11	190	5	Virginia Tech		D1-14		D1-Chi-14
36	Houston-Carson, DeAndre	DB	6-1	205	3	William & Mary		D6-16		D6-Chi-16
39	Jackson, Eddie	DB	6-0	202	2	Alabama		D4a-17		D4a-Chi-17
21	Joseph, Michael	DB	6-1	187	1	Dubuque		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
27	McManis, Sherrick	DB	6-1	193	9	Northwestern		T-Hou-12		D5-Hou-10
25	Mincy, Jonathon	DB	5-10	196	1	Auburn		FA-18		FA-Atl-15
24	Skrine, Buster	DB	5-9	185	8	Chattanooga		FA-NYJ-19		D5a-Cle-11
22	Toliver II, Kevin	DB	6-2	192	1	LSU		FA-18		FA-Chi-18
SPECIALISTS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Blewitt, Chris	K	5-9	190	1	Pittsburgh		FA-19		FA-Chi-19
	Fry, Elliott	K	6-0	189	1	South Carolina		FA-19		FA-Chi-19
16	O'Donnell, Pat	P	6-4	217	5	Miami		D6b-14		D6b-Chi-14
	Piñero, Eddy	K	6-0	185	1	Florida		FA-Oak-19		FA-Oak-18
48	Scales, Patrick	LS	6-4	239	3	Utah State		FA-15		FA-Bal-11

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	12	Allen Robinson II	Riley Ridley (R)
WR	18	Taylor Gabriel	83 Javon Wims
WR	17	Anthony Miller	Cordarrelle Patterson
LT	72	Charles Leno Jr.	79 Bradley Sowell
LG	65	Cody Whitehair	60 Dejon Allen
C	68	James Daniels	62 Ted Larsen
RG	75	Kyle Long	67 Willie Beavers
RT	70	Bobby Massie	69 Rashaad Coward
TE	80	Trey Burton	87 Adam Shaheen
QB	10	Mitchell Trubisky	4 Chase Daniel
RB	32	David Montgomery (R)	29 Tarik Cohen

DEFENSE

DE	96	Akiem Hicks	90 Jonathan Bullard
NT	91	Eddie Goldman	97 Nick Williams
DE	98	Bilal Nichols	95 Roy Robertson-Harris
OLB	52	Khalil Mack	99 Aaron Lynch
ILB	59	Danny Trevathan	45 Joel Iyiebuniwe
ILB	58	Roquan Smith	44 Nick Kwiatkowski
OLB	94	Leonard Floyd	47 Isaiah Irving
CB	23	Kyle Fuller	24 Buster Skrine
CB	20	Prince Amukamara	22 Kevin Toliver
S	39	Eddie Jackson	36 DeAndre Houston-Carson
S	21	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	26 Deon Bush

SPECIALISTS

K	Eddie Piñero	KR	17 Anthony Miller
P	16 Pat O'Donnell	PR	29 Tarik Cohen

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
S	Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	Washington
RB	Mike Davis	Seattle
WR	Marvin Hall	Atlanta
OL	Ted Larsen	Miami
WR	Cordarrelle Patterson	New England
CB	Buster Skrine	N.Y. Jets

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
S	Adrian Amos	Green Bay
WR	Josh Bellamy	N.Y. Jets
CB	Bryce Callahan	Denver
RB	Jordan Howard	Philadelphia
OG	Eric Kush	Cleveland
PK	Cody Parkey	Free Agent
TE	Dion Sims	Free Agent
OT	Bryan Witzmann	Cleveland

SCOUTING THE BEARS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CHICAGO "What a magical first season for Matt Nagy. In a move to connect coach and quarterback, GM Ryan Pace made the best call of his era in putting Mitchell Trubisky under Nagy's leadership. Coordinator Mark Helfrich gets zero credit, but he is a key interpreter for Trubisky. The third-year signal caller has to do two things better in 2019: hit more downfield passes and cut down his picks from 12 to single digits. ... They traded Jordan Howard to the Eagles and signed Mike Davis from the Seahawks. Tarik Cohen is a magician in space and as a receiver. ... Trey Burton was more than advertised with 54 receptions and six touchdowns, while Allen Robinson and Taylor Gabriel were surprisingly dependable. Anthony Miller is a future star after a solid rookie campaign. ... The offensive line is adequate and gets masked in their quick-paced West Coast offense. ... Khalil Mack was one of the headline stories of the entire season, and, along with Roquan Smith, gives the Bears two of the league's best defensive playmakers. All Danny Trevathan does is make tackles. Leonard Floyd has not lived up to his draft status, so this will be an important year for him. Akiem Hicks is finally getting his due as one of the game's best interior linemen. Kyle Fuller and Eddie Jackson are two big-league ballhawks. ... This team is on the rise. If they can get past their placekicking woes, they should not only contend for the playoffs, but also Super Bowls in the coming years."



Bears

IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
3.	David Montgomery	RB	5-10	222	Iowa State
4.	Riley Ridley	WR	6-1	199	Georgia
6.	Duke Shelley	CB	5-9	173	Kansas State
7.	Kerrith Whyte	RB	5-10	197	Florida Atlantic
7.	Stephen Denmark	CB	6-3	220	Valdosta State

Aside from making tacklers miss, David Montgomery lacks outstanding qualities, but the Bears love his versatility and intangibles. He rushed for almost 2,400 yards in his final two seasons at Iowa State. Riley Ridley is a physical possession receiver who runs precise routes and has good hands but lacks great speed and the ability to separate. Duke Shelley is an undersized project who lacks the size to factor as anything but a nickel. Kerrith Whyte could contribute on special teams with his 4.38 speed and kickoff-return experience. Stephen Denmark is a D-II project and converted wide receiver with just one season of cornerback experience, but he has an exceptional size-speed (4.46) combination.

Outside the Huddle

FIRST CUT IS THE DEEPEST Unrestricted free agent running back Mike Davis will compete to replace traded Jordan Howard as the Bears' primary ball carrier. Davis says he plays with a chip on his shoulder and always will, ever since he was waived by the 49ers two years after they drafted him in the fourth round in 2015. "Ever since I got cut that one time," Davis says, "it scarred me for life."

GLOBAL SUPPORT Tight end Zach Miller will never play in the NFL again after suffering a dislocated knee and torn popliteal artery in his left leg Oct. 29, 2017, in New Orleans that nearly cost him his leg. But the 34-year-old has been encouraged by the response he's received from fans as far away as Australia, Brazil and all across Europe, many of whom have suffered similar injuries. "It touches my heart just because I've had so many people reach out to me, whether near or far, whether they're Bears fans or NFL fans across the globe," Miller says.

ROLE MODEL The Bears couldn't wait until the 87th overall selection to make their first draft pick, so they traded up 14 spots to snag Iowa State running back David Montgomery. "There's incredible stories about his work ethic," GM Ryan Pace says. "Going up to the facility late at night and bringing teammates with him to watch additional tape and get extra work in. You just hear about his professional approach to the game, and how infectious that was to the entire team there."

LEARNING FROM THE BEST Unrestricted free agent pickup Cordarrelle Patterson, a Pro Bowl kick returner, is

excited to play for the same team as Devin Hester, the NFL's all-time leader with 19 kick return touchdowns. "Hopefully I can get his phone number and he can write me back and give me little tips how to be as great as he was when he was here," Patterson says.

THIRD ROUND'S THE CHARM Defensive lineman Akiem Hicks was originally a third-round pick of the Saints when Pace worked in the personnel department in New Orleans. Since the Bears didn't have a selection until Round 3 this year, Hicks had some thoughts. "I already talked to Pace about it," Hicks said. "I said, 'Man, you struck gold on the first one, you gotta do it again.'"

ROLL TIDE The Alabama connection played a role in the Bears landing safety Ha Ha Clinton-Dix in free agency. The former Packer and Redskin, a Pro Bowler in Green Bay in 2016, was recruited by Bears All-Pro safety Eddie Jackson, who was lured to Alabama in part by Clinton-Dix. Jackson was hosted by Clinton-Dix when he visited Tuscaloosa, Ala., partly because both are Florida natives. "[Alabama coach Nick] Saban loves Florida guys, and they just wanted me to holler at [Jackson]," Clinton-Dix says. "Saban treated him like his son, and he loved him to death. I knew I had to get him on the squad."

FAMILY AFFAIR The Bears' fourth-round draft pick, Georgia wide receiver Riley Ridley, didn't go nearly as high as older brother Calvin, who was the 26th overall choice in 2018. But Ridley says the family is pleased. "It's incredible to see a smile on his face," Ridley says of his big brother. "My mom, just to have two boys in the NFL, it's incredible."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	5
2015	6
2016	3
2017	5
2018	12

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

23.83

The Bears had the worst starting field position in the NFL after receiving kickoffs, averaging a start at the 23.83-yard line.

19.1

Chicago's defense created turnovers on a league-high 19.1 percent of opponents' offensive drives.

4.24

Chicago had the second-largest average lead per offensive possession, at 4.24 points.



Detroit LIONS

NFC North Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Martha Firestone Ford
President: Rod Wood
Executive VP/General Manager: Bob Quinn
VP of Player Personnel: Kyle O'Brien
Director of Player Personnel: Lance Newmark
Stadium: Ford Field (65,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.detroitlions.com
Tickets: 313-262-2222
Training Camp: Detroit Lions Training Facility (Allen Park, Mich.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt Patricia
Record With Team: 6-10
Career Record: 6-10
Offensive Coordinator: Darrell Bevell
Defensive Coordinator: Paul Pasqualoni
Special Teams Coordinator: John Bonamego
Quarterbacks: Sean Ryan
Running Backs: Kyle Caskey
Wide Receivers: Robert Prince
Tight Ends: Chris White
Offensive Line: Jeff Davidson
Defensive Line: Bo Davis
Linebackers: Al Golden
Defensive Backs: Brian Stewart

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	at Arizona	4:25	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Sept. 15	L.A. Chargers	1:00	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)
Sept. 22	at Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Sept. 29	Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
BYE							
Oct. 14	at Green Bay (Mon.)	8:15	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)
Oct. 20	Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Oct. 27	N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Nov. 3	at Oakland	4:05	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Nov. 10	at Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Nov. 17	Dallas	1:00	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Nov. 24	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Nov. 28	Chicago (Thu.)	12:30	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Dec. 8	at Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Dec. 15	Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Dec. 21/22	at Denver	TBD	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Dec. 29	Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)

Until 2018, the last time Lions head coach Matt Patricia suffered through a losing season as a football coach, he was a grad assistant at Syracuse in 2002. For general manager Bob Quinn, you had to go back to 2000, his first year in New England as a lowly personnel assistant under new Patriots head coach Bill Belichick. So the 6-10 finish in their first year together in Detroit — Quinn hired his longtime colleague after firing Jim Caldwell following back-to-back 9-7 seasons — was a system shock. But so was the culture shift that coincided with it as Patricia's version of the Patriot Way rubbed some veteran players the wrong way and a poor start — as well as some poor personnel fits — left many fans in Detroit wondering if they'd climbed out on another flimsy branch of Belichick's coaching tree.

But a few signature wins, including one against his former boss, gave Patricia something to build on. And after making a much bigger splash in free agency this winter, the roster seems better aligned with his vision.

OFFENSE Matthew Stafford endured one of his worst seasons in 2018, passing for fewer than 4,000 yards — a career low for a full season — and taking some lumps in the process. He was sacked 40 times and played through a back injury the final month of the season. But Stafford, who has started 128 consecutive games (third most among active quarterbacks), also played without some key offensive weapons, after the Lions dealt his favorite target, Golden Tate, at the trade deadline, and rookie running back Kerryon Johnson and veteran wideout Marvin Jones Jr. both went down with injuries.

Last season's struggles ratcheted up the pressure on Stafford, who'll carry a nearly \$30 million cap hit this season. They ultimately cost coordinator Jim Bob Cooter his job, too. But his replacement, Darrell Bevell, seems to be a better fit, sharing the same run-first, ball-control philosophy Patricia is trying to hammer home in Detroit.

The pieces are there for a more efficient run game, starting with Johnson, who averaged 5.4 yards per carry as a rookie and racked up the first two 100-yard rushing games for the Lions since 2013. Johnson also showed more ability as a receiver than expected. The power-back role this year belongs to C.J. Anderson, who parlayed his late-season success with the Rams into a free agent deal. Anderson's best NFL season was in 2017 in Denver, and the line coach there, Jeff Davidson, is now in his second year designing the Lions' blocking scheme. The Lions also kept dependable backup Zach Zenner, while Theo Riddick, whose production as a third down specialist dropped off last fall, is entering a contract year.

The offensive line will have to replace Pro Bowl right guard T.J. Lang, who retired in March. But the rest of the starters return, including left guard Frank Ragnow, a run-game mauler who impressed as a rookie first-round pick. Just as important, the Lions invested a top-10 pick in Iowa tight end T.J. Hockenson, whose sure hands and elite blocking ability should create mismatches up front and immediately help the play-action game. Quinn also signed former Steelers tight end Jesse James, another solid in-line blocker with a huge catch radius at 6'7".

At receiver, Jones returns opposite Kenny Golladay, a big-play threat who is poised to claim the No. 1 role after earning Stafford's trust. Tate's slot role will be filled by veteran Danny Amendola, a tough, precise route runner and one of several ex-Patriots on the Lions' roster.



QB **MATTHEW STAFFORD**



2018 RESULTS (6-10)

Sept. 10	N.Y. Jets	L	17-48
Sept. 16	at San Francisco	L	27-30
Sept. 23	New England	W	26-10
Sept. 30	at Dallas	L	24-26
Oct. 7	Green Bay	W	31-23
Oct. 21	at Miami	W	32-21
Oct. 28	Seattle	L	14-28
Nov. 4	at Minnesota	L	9-24
Nov. 11	at Chicago	L	22-34
Nov. 18	Carolina	W	20-19
Nov. 22	Chicago	L	16-23
Dec. 2	L.A. Rams	L	16-30
Dec. 9	at Arizona	W	17-3
Dec. 16	at Buffalo	L	13-14
Dec. 23	Minnesota	L	9-27
Dec. 30	at Green Bay	W	31-0

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matthew Stafford	555	367	3,777	21	11
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Kerryon Johnson	118	641	5.4	3	
LeGarrette Blount	154	418	2.7	5	
Zach Zenner	55	265	4.8	3	
Theo Riddick	40	171	4.3	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Kenny Golladay	70	1,063	15.2	5	
Golden Tate	44	517	11.8	3	
Marvin Jones Jr.	35	508	14.5	5	
Theo Riddick	61	384	6.3	0	
Levine Toilolo	21	263	12.5	1	

KICKING: Matt Prater, 28-32 FGs, 30-30 PAT, 114 points

TACKLES: Jarrad Davis, 100; Quandre Diggs, 78

SACKS: Romeo Okwara, 7.5; Devon Kennard, 7.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Quandre Diggs, 3; Darius Slay, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	327.3	24	14
Rushing	103.8	23	10
Passing	223.5	20	11
Scoring	20.2	25	14
Third Down %	36.1	25	14
Punt Returns	6.3	T26	T11
Kick Returns	24.1	T11	5

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	335.0	10	4
Rushing	110.1	10	5
Passing	224.9	8	4
Scoring	22.5	T16	8
Interceptions	7	T29	T13
Sacks	43	T11	T8
Turnover Differential	-5	T23	12

DEFENSE Patricia's effort to overhaul the defensive scheme got off to a rough start in 2018, much like the team as a whole. But a mid-season trade with the Giants to acquire former All-Pro nose tackle Damon "Snacks" Harrison was a huge step in the right direction on that side of the ball. The Lions went from the NFL's worst run defense statistically to one of the best with Harrison controlling the gaps inside and making others around him better. A'Shawn Robinson had a bounce-back season, and rookie Da'Shawn

Hand looked like a fourth-round find as well, two former Alabama players thriving after being reunited with Bo Davis, their collegiate position coach. Another Giants castoff, long-armed defensive end Romeo Okwara, proved to be Detroit's most effective pass rusher with 7.5 sacks. After claiming Okwara off waivers last September, the Lions locked him up with a two-year extension in February.

Then the Lions went out and landed the top edge rusher in free agency, Trey Flowers, a 25-year-old who started his career with Patricia in New England and is just entering his prime. That addition came at a steep price — Flowers' five-year, \$90 million deal is the richest the Lions have ever paid in free agency — but it gives Patricia and defensive coordinator Paul Pasqualoni the kind of tough, versatile playmaker they have desperately sought in the front seven. His arrival should free up last year's big addition, Devon Kennard, and middle linebacker Jarrad Davis, who has struggled in coverage but excelled as a downhill tackler and blitzer. Davis was the only NFL player to record 100 tackles and six sacks last season, and the surprise second-round draft selection of Hawaii's Jahlani Tavai — a smart, big-bodied thumper at linebacker — gives Patricia another chess piece to move around.

The secondary will have a different look, with second-year safety Tracy Walker poised to fill Glover Quin's old starting role alongside Quandre Diggs, who quickly became a Patricia favorite with his hard-hitting play last season. The Lions traded up in the third round to draft another safety in Will Harris, who fits as a "big nickel" third safety and played for Pasqualoni at Boston College. Two-time Pro Bowler Darius Slay remains one of the NFL's top cover men, but the Lions moved aggressively in free agency to add Seattle's Justin Coleman, a slot corner who spent his first two years in the league as a backup in New England. They also added veteran Rashaan Melvin, then drafted a big, rangy press corner in Penn State's Amani Oruwariye to groom as a future starter.

SPECIALISTS The special teams units remain unchanged, except at the top, where a familiar face is back as coordinator. John Bonamego, who coached the Lions' special teams in 2013-14, was hired to fill a vacancy created when Patricia fired Joe Marciano last November. He returns to a unit that excelled again in the kicking game in 2018. Matt Prater posted his eighth career 100-point season, and in addition to a big leg, he's perfect from inside 40 yards over the last two years.

Punter Sam Martin returned to form as well, pinning opponents inside the 20 and helping the Lions lead the NFL in opponents' starting field position. And long snapper Don Muhlbach, who earned his second Pro Bowl nod, is back for his 16th season.

Still, undisciplined play by the punt coverage units early last season — the Lions finished with 22 penalties on special teams — sealed Marciano's fate. Losing Jamal Agnew to injury for much of the season also hurt the return game. He made the Pro Bowl as a rookie in 2017 when he led the NFL in punt return yardage. Rookie sixth-round pick Ty Johnson was one of the nation's top kick returners last season, so he'll get a shot to earn a roster spot in the preseason.

FINAL ANALYSIS The key figures — the GM, the head coach and the franchise quarterback — are all under contract through 2022. But double-digit losses won't cut it. That makes this a pivotal year, particularly for Stafford, who remains a lightning rod for criticism after a decade in Detroit with no playoff success to show for it. The early-season schedule won't be easy, but if Patricia can build on the defensive strides made late last season, there should be enough juice in the run game to gain some traction.



DARIUS SLAY



2019 VETERAN LIONS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Cook, Connor	QB	6-4	215	1	Michigan State	FA-19	D4-Oak-16
Savage, Tom	QB	6-4	230	5	Pittsburgh	FA-Cin-19	D4-Hou-14
9 Stafford, Matthew	QB	6-3	220	10	Georgia	D1a-09	D1a-Det-09
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Anderson, C.J.	RB	5-8	225	6	California	FA-LAR-19	FA-Den-13
46 Bawden, Nick	FB	6-2	245	1	San Diego State	D7-18	D7-Det-18
33 Johnson, Kerryon	RB	5-11	206	1	Auburn	D2-18	D2-Det-18
25 Riddick, Theo	RB	5-9	201	6	Notre Dame	D6b-13	D6b-Det-13
Thompson, Mark	RB	6-1	235	1	Florida	FA-19	FA-Bal-18
Williams, Kerwynn	RB	5-8	198	5	Utah State	FA-19	D7-Ind-13
34 Zenner, Zach	RB	5-11	221	4	South Dakota St.	FA-18	FA-Det-15
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
16 Alexander, Deontez	WR	6-1	196	1	Franklin	FA-18	FA-Det-18
Amendola, Danny	WR	5-11	190	10	Texas Tech	FA-Mia-19	FA-Dal-08
86 Cunningham, Jerome	TE	6-3	250	2	S. Connecticut St.	FA-18	FA-NYG-14
19 Golladay, Kenny	WR	6-4	213	2	Northern Illinois	D3-17	D3-Det-17
James, Jesse	TE	6-7	261	4	Penn State	FA-Pit-19	D5-Pit-15
11 Jones Jr., Marvin	WR	6-2	198	7	California	FA-Cin-16	D5-Cin-12
17 Jones, Andy	WR	6-1	215	1	Jacksonville	FA-18	FA-Dal-16
18 Lacy, Chris	WR	6-3	205	1	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-Det-18
Lewis, Tommylee	WR	5-7	168	3	Northern Illinois	FA-NO-19	FA-NO-16
10 Powell, Brandon	WR	5-8	181	1	Florida	FA-18	FA-Det-18
83 Reilly, Brandon	WR	6-2	200	1	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-Buf-17
80 Roberts, Michael	TE	6-5	265	2	Toledo	D4b-17	D4b-Det-17
Thomas, Logan	TE	6-6	250	4	Virginia Tech	FA-Buf-19	D4-Ari-14
87 Toilolo, Levine	TE	6-8	268	6	Stanford	FA-Atl-18	D4b-Atl-13
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Aboushi, Oday	OL	6-5	315	5	Virginia	FA-Ari-19	D5-NYJ-13
65 Crosby, Tyrell	OL	6-4	309	1	Oregon	D5-18	D5-Det-18
66 Dahl, Joe	G	6-4	305	3	Washington State	D5-16	D5-Det-16
68 Decker, Taylor	T	6-7	311	3	Ohio State	D1-16	D1-Det-16
78 Donnal, Andrew	OL	6-6	305	4	Iowa	FA-18	D4-LAR-15
60 Glasgow, Graham	C/G	6-6	310	3	Michigan	D3-16	D3-Det-16
72 Jones, Jarron	OL	6-6	320	1	Notre Dame	FA-18	FA-NYG-17
75 Koloamatangi, Leo	C	6-5	305	1	Hawaii	FA-17	FA-Det-17
77 Ragnow, Frank	OL	6-5	308	1	Arkansas	D1-18	D1-Det-18
71 Wagner, Rick	T	6-6	315	6	Wisconsin	FA-Bal-17	D5-Bal-13
79 Wiggins, Kenny	G	6-6	330	5	Fresno State	FA-LAC-18	FA-SF-11
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
99 Atkins, John	DT	6-3	320	1	Georgia	FA-18	FA-NE-18
Flowers, Trey	DL	6-2	265	4	Arkansas	FA-NE-19	D4a-NE-15
93 Hand, Da'Shawn	DL	6-3	297	1	Alabama	D4-18	D4-Det-18
98 Harrison Sr., Damon	DT	6-3	353	7	William Penn	T-NYG-18	FA-NYJ-12
55 Lee, Eric	DE	6-3	255	2	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Hou-16
95 Okwara, Romeo	DE	6-4	274	3	Notre Dame	W-NYG-18	FA-NYG-16
91 Robinson, A'Shawn	DT	6-4	322	3	Alabama	D2-16	D2-Det-16
69 Wynn, Jonathan	DE	6-4	256	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Min-18
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
40 Davis, Jarrad	LB	6-1	238	2	Florida	D1-17	D1-Det-17
58 Doolley, Garret	LB	6-2	227	1	Wisconsin	FA-18	FA-Min-18
52 Jones, Christian	LB	6-3	244	5	Florida State	FA-Chi-18	FA-Chi-14
42 Kennard, Devon	LB	6-4	256	5	USC	FA-NYG-18	D5b-NYG-14
54 Longa, Steve	LB	6-0	240	2	Rutgers	FA-16	FA-Sea-16
44 Reeves-Maybin, Jalen	LB	6-0	230	2	Tennessee	D4a-17	D4a-Det-17
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Adams, Andrew	S	5-11	204	3	Connecticut	FA-TB-19	FA-NYG-16
39 Agnew, Jamal	CB	5-10	190	2	San Diego	D5-17	D5-Det-17
36 Chachere, Andre	CB	6-0	200	1	San Jose State	FA-18	FA-Hou-18
Coleman, Justin	CB	5-11	190	4	Tennessee	FA-Sea-19	FA-Min-15
21 Cooper Sr., Marcus	CB	6-2	197	6	Rutgers	W-Chi-18	D7-SF-13
28 Diggs, Quandre	DB	5-9	200	4	Texas	D6-15	D6-Det-15
38 Ford, Mike	CB	6-0	194	1	Southeast Missouri	FA-18	FA-Det-18
41 Jones, David	S	6-3	210	1	Richmond	FA-18	FA-NE-17
35 Killebrew, Miles	S	6-2	222	3	Southern Utah	D4-16	D4-Det-16
Melvin, Rashaan	CB	6-2	196	6	Northern Illinois	FA-Oak-19	FA-TB-13
23 Slay, Darius	CB	6-0	190	6	Mississippi State	D2-13	D2-Det-13
31 Tabor, Tez	CB	6-0	201	2	Florida	D2-17	D2-Det-17
30 Virgin, Dee	CB	5-9	205	1	West Alabama	FA-18	FA-Hou-17
47 Walker, Tracy	DB	6-1	206	1	UL Lafayette	D3-18	D3-Det-18
45 Washington, Charles	S	5-10	192	2	Fresno State	FA-16	D2-Det-16
32 Wilson, Tavon	S	6-0	212	7	Illinois	FA-NE-16	D2-NE-12
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
6 Martin, Sam	P	6-1	211	6	Appalachian State	D5b-13	D5b-Det-13
48 Muhlbach, Don	LS	6-4	258	15	Texas A&M	FA-D4	FA-Bal-04
5 Prater, Matt	K	5-10	201	12	UCF	FA-14	FA-Det-06
2 Santoso, Ryan	P	6-5	258	1	Minnesota	FA-19	FA-Det-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	19	Kenny Golladay	12	Danny Amendola
WR	11	Marvin Jones Jr.	14	Tommylee Lewis
LT	68	Taylor Decker		Ryan Pope (R)
LG	77	Frank Ragnow	66	Joe Dahl
C	60	Graham Glasgow	75	Leo Koloamatangi
RG	79	Kenny Wiggins	76	Oday Aboushi
RT	71	Rick Wagner	65	Tyrell Crosby
TE	83	Jesse James		T.J. Hockenson (R)
QB	9	Matthew Stafford	3	Tom Savage
RB	33	Kerryon Johnson	26	C.J. Anderson
RB	25	Theo Riddick	34	Zach Zenner

DEFENSE

DE	95	Romeo Okwara	93	Da'Shawn Hand
DT	98	Damon Harrison	99	John Atkins
DT	91	A'Shawn Robinson		P.J. Johnson (R)
DE	90	Trey Flowers		Austin Bryant (R)
OLB	42	Devon Kennard	44	Jalen Reeves-Maybin
MLB	40	Jarrad Davis	54	Steve Longa
OLB	52	Christian Jones		Jahlani Tavai (R)
CB	23	Darius Slay		Amani Oruwariye (R)
CB	27	Justin Coleman	29	Rashaan Melvin
FS	28	Quandre Diggs		Will Harris (R)
SS	47	Tracy Walker	32	Tavon Wilson

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Matt Prater	KR	Ty Johnson (R)
P	6	Sam Martin	PR	39 Jamal Agnew

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
OG	Oday Aboushi	Arizona
S	Andrew Adams	Tampa Bay
WR	Danny Amendola	Miami
RB	C.J. Anderson	Los Angeles
CB	Justin Coleman	Seattle
DE	Trey Flowers	New England
TE	Jesse James	Pittsburgh
CB	Rashaan Melvin	Oakland
QB	Tom Savage	Cincinnati

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DE	Ezekiel Ansah	Free Agent
RB	LeGarrette Blount	Free Agent
DT	Ricky Jean Francois	Free Agent
RG	T.J. Lang	Retired
CB	Nevin Lawson	Oakland
S	Glover Quin	Free Agent
LB	Kelvin Sheppard	Free Agent
TE	Levine Toilolo	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE LIONS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP DETROIT "2018 was an inventory year for new coach Matt Patricia as the team struggled to a 6-10 finish after a respectable 3-3 start. ... Jim Bob Cooter was replaced by Darrell Bevell as the OC, and he will be tasked to find the right balance of run/pass for Matt Stafford and Co. ... Stafford was more game manager last year and less reliant on his big arm. When he did push the football downfield, Kenny Golladay was on the receiving end for 70 receptions and five TDs. The scouting community missed on Golladay coming out of Northern Illinois; he has emerged as a legit vertical threat. ... Kerryon Johnson flashed in seven starts with 641 rushing yards and 32 receptions. Theo Riddick posted numbers (61 receptions), but his longest gain of the season was 20 yards. ... Tight end T.J. Hockenson was drafted to go along with Jesse James, who was signed during free agency. ... Jarrad Davis is a multi-dimensional linebacker; he led the team with 100 tackles, while registering six sacks. ... Patricia and GM Bob Quinn recruited Trey Flowers from New England, and he should help bolster the pass rush. Devon Kennard chipped in seven more sacks and was a quality free agent signing from a year ago. ... Darius Slay gets most of the attention in the secondary, and he is a Pro Bowl talent, but Quandre Diggs has quietly become one of the most consistent corners in the game. ... If Kerryon Johnson can stay healthy for a full season, the Lions' playoff chances would be bolstered; otherwise, it will be another year of stat building for Stafford and a sub-.500 record."



B

Lions IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	T.J. Hockenson	TE	6-5	251	Iowa
2.	Jahlani Tavai	LB	6-2	250	Hawaii
3.	Will Harris	S	6-1	207	Boston College
4.	Austin Bryant	DE	6-4	271	Clemson
5.	Amani Oruwariye	CB	6-2	205	Penn State
6.	Travis Fulgham	WR	6-2	215	Old Dominion
6.	Ty Johnson	RB	5-10	208	Maryland
7.	Isaac Nauta	TE	6-3	244	Georgia
7.	P.J. Johnson	DT	6-4	334	Arizona

T.J. Hockenson was the most complete tight end in the 2019 class, and his run-blocking ability makes him an immediate contributor. Jahlani Tavai is a versatile, big-bodied linebacker the Lions grabbed before the Patriots could in Round 2. Will Harris, who played for Detroit DC Paul Pasqualoni at Boston College, could see time as a big nickel as a rookie. Austin Bryant was the forgotten man in Clemson's dominant front four, but his edge-setting ability should earn him a rotational spot. Amani Oruwariye's arrival could spell the end for 2017 second-round pick Teez Tabor in Detroit. Ty Johnson's speed and return ability might be enough to land him a roster spot. Isaac Nauta could be used in an H-back role if he sticks. P.J. Johnson's a raw developmental prospect at nose tackle.



Outside the Huddle

EX-PAT The list of former Patriots on the Lions' roster keeps growing. The common thread isn't hard to find, either, as Lions receiver Kenny Golladay noted shortly after new free agent addition Danny Amendola, who won two Super Bowls in five seasons in New England, showed up for the offseason program in Detroit. "We're still just figuring each other out, but I know one thing, his work ethic is crazy," Golladay said. "It's through the roof. He wants to push everyone. And when you have a guy like that, you just really want to follow him."

THE (LION) KING The signs were there even before the Lions made it official on draft night, selecting Iowa tight end T.J. Hockenson with the eighth overall pick. Hockenson wasn't sure where he'd end up, but he was wearing "Lion King" socks at the draft in Nashville. "The sock choice was completely by coincidence," Hockenson said. "'The Lion King' has been my favorite movie ever since I was little, and I like Disney, so I was like, 'Let's do it.' It's awesome." Another sign: His Little League team as a kid growing up in Iowa was the Tigers. "I had the Old English D on the hat and I wore that everywhere."

MONEY WOES The Lions made Matthew Stafford the NFL's highest-paid quarterback just before the start of the 2017 season. Now, after Seattle's Russell Wilson's recent extension, Stafford isn't even ranked in the top five in average salary at his position. In fact, he's the third highest-paid quarterback (\$27 million) in his own division behind Aaron Rodgers (\$33 million) and Kirk Cousins (\$28 million).

SCHEDULE TALK A few of the Lions' schedule quirks stand out. They'll face Arizona for the seventh time in eight seasons, and for the fifth time in that span in the desert. They'll also close out the regular season against Green Bay in Week 17 for the fourth consecutive year. Detroit is scheduled for one prime-time game — Monday night at Green Bay in Week 6 — but could add another with a Week 16 matchup in Denver.

BLOODLINES Jahlani Tavai, Detroit's second-round pick, is the third of four brothers to play Division I college football. He also was an All-American rugby standout in high school, traveling with the U.S. under-18 national team.

TURF WARS Ford Field, the Lions' home since 2002, is getting another facelift. Two years after undergoing \$100 million in renovations to improve the fan experience, the stadium is getting a new FieldTurf playing surface. The previous turf, installed in 2013, already was the second oldest in the NFL.

HEALTH SCARE Stafford and his wife, Kelly, had busy offseasons the past two years with the birth of twin girls in March 2017 and another daughter in August 2018. This spring, it was a more traumatic trip to the hospital as Kelly underwent a 12-hour surgery in April to remove a brain tumor, then began a long rehabilitation.

NEXT MAN UP Before the Lions signed running back C.J. Anderson in free agency, they signed his Los Angeles Rams backfield mate, Malcolm Brown, to an offer sheet. The salary cap-strapped Rams matched the front-loaded offer, so the Lions signed Anderson.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	11	🏆
2015	7	
2016	9	🏆
2017	9	
2018	6	

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2:58

The Lions averaged 2:58 of possession time per offensive drive, fifth highest in the NFL.

7.36

Detroit's defense ended offensive drives with a turnover on just 7.36 percent of possessions, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.11

The Lions defense allowed 2.11 touchdowns per field goal, the fifth-highest rate in the NFL.



Green Bay PACKERS

NFC North Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Executive Committee/Board of Directors

President/CEO: Mark Murphy

General Manager: Brian Gutekunst

Sr. Advisor to Football Operations:

Ted Thompson

Stadium: Lambeau Field (81,441)

Surface: Grass

Website: www.packers.com

Tickets: 920-569-7501

Training Camp: St. Norbert College

(De Pere, Wis.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Matt LaFleur

Record With Team: 0-0

Career Record: 0-0

Offensive Coordinator: Nathaniel Hackett

Defensive Coordinator: Mike Pettine

Special Teams Coordinator: Shawn Mennenga

Quarterbacks: Luke Getsy

Running Backs: Ben Sirmans

Wide Receivers: Alvis Whitted

Tight Ends: Justin Outten

Offensive Line: Adam Stenavich

Defensive Line: Jerry Montgomery

Inside Linebackers: Kirk Olivadotti

Outside Linebackers: Mike Smith

Defensive Backs: Jason Simmons

The Green Bay Packers' fresh start began with a bright white coat of paint in the hallways outside the locker room, and a new seating chart and a full-sized basketball hoop in the team meeting room. After back-to-back losing seasons cost longtime head coach Mike McCarthy his job, Matt LaFleur wants to make things shiny, new and fun again around Lambeau Field.

"We're pretty fortunate to do what we do. Who doesn't want to have fun when they go to work?" LaFleur says. "It does not need to be an uptight environment. We can certainly come in, get our work done and have a ball doing it. I just think that you get more out of people when they enjoy what they do."

The Packers clearly needed a change after McCarthy was fired with four games left in his 13th season as head coach, and the 39-year-old LaFleur believes altering the vibe in the building is as much a part of the new beginning as changing the offensive playbook.

He's also making sure that the storied Packers franchise isn't living in the past. So while acknowledging the team's rich history, he doesn't want the focus to be on the greats of yesteryear. Thus, among the remodeling, he's added large murals featuring current players such as quarterback Aaron Rodgers, star wide receiver Davante Adams and running back Aaron Jones. "I wanted to make it about these guys, and when you come to the Green Bay Packers, obviously you respect the tradition, the history, but for us, and this football team, it's about making history," LaFleur says. "We'll always pay respect to what's been done here in the past, but for us, it's about moving forward. And the expectation level is always going to be great in this organization."

For the Packers to move forward, a new offensive playbook and play caller must get Rodgers back to being Rodgers; the stability of bringing back defensive coordinator Mike Pettine and infusing the roster with a host of defensive talent must get that side of the ball to pull its weight; and the special teams units — a perennial issue under McCarthy — must become an asset. If those things happen, LaFleur will have a chance to become the first coach in the team's 100-year history to reach the postseason in his first year.

OFFENSE It's up to LaFleur to revitalize Rodgers, whose frustrations with McCarthy became more and more obvious and whose own performance lagged. Rodgers, who revealed during the offseason that he suffered a tibial plateau fracture and a sprained medial collateral ligament during the first half of the 2018 season opener against Chicago, finished last season with a 97.6 passer rating, the fourth lowest of his 11 years as a starter. He threw for 4,442 yards and 25 touchdowns with only two interceptions, but he completed only 62.3 percent of his passes (his second-worst percentage as a starter) and absorbed

a whopping 49 sacks (the third most of his tenure.)

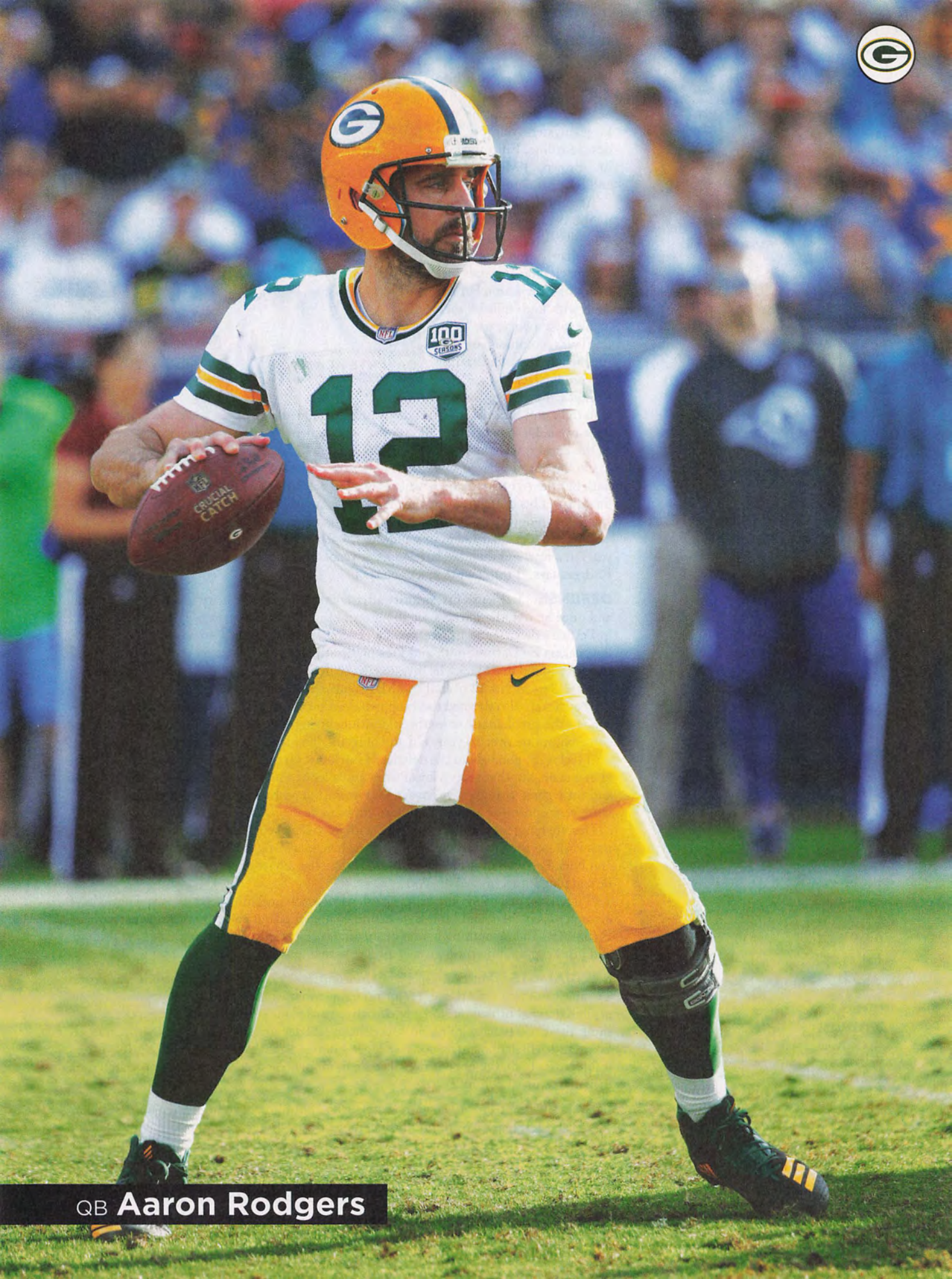
"I think it's going to be a fun process," Rodgers says. "Matt's a super-energetic guy. I think he's a real straight shooter, an honest guy. Any great play caller-to-quarterback relationship is a partnership. Ultimately, we both know who the boss is — and it's him. But it works best when it's a partnership. I'm excited about working with him."

Rodgers is also excited to be throwing again to Adams, who caught 111 passes last season and could surpass that in LaFleur's offense. And with no other significant experience at receiver — the next-most experienced receivers are Geronimo Allison and Trevor

2019 Schedule

2018 NFL RANKINGS

Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 5	at Chicago (Thu.)	8:20	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Sept. 15	Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Sept. 22	Denver	1:00	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
Sept. 26	Philadelphia (Thu.)	8:20	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Oct. 6	at Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Oct. 14	Detroit (Mon.)	8:15	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
Oct. 20	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Oct. 27	at Kansas City	8:20	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Nov. 3	at L.A. Chargers	4:25	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6t)	20.6 (8)
Nov. 10	Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
BYE							
Nov. 24	at San Francisco	4:25	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Dec. 1	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Dec. 8	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Dec. 15	Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Dec. 23	at Minnesota (Mon.)	8:15	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Dec. 29	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)



QB **Aaron Rodgers**



2018 RESULTS (6-9-1)

Sept. 9	Chicago	W	24-23
Sept. 16	Minnesota (ot)	T	29-29
Sept. 23	at Washington	L	17-31
Sept. 30	Buffalo	W	22-0
Oct. 7	at Detroit	L	23-31
Oct. 15	San Francisco	W	33-30
Oct. 28	at L.A. Rams	L	27-29
Nov. 4	at New England	L	17-31
Nov. 11	Miami	W	31-12
Nov. 15	at Seattle	L	24-27
Nov. 25	at Minnesota	L	17-24
Dec. 2	Arizona	L	17-20
Dec. 9	Atlanta	W	34-20
Dec. 16	at Chicago	L	17-24
Dec. 23	at N.Y. Jets (ot)	W	44-38
Dec. 30	Detroit	L	0-31

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Aaron Rodgers	597	372	4,442	25	2
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Aaron Jones	133	728	5.5	8	
Jamaal Williams	121	464	3.8	3	
Aaron Rodgers	43	269	6.3	2	
Ty Montgomery	26	105	4.0	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Davante Adams	111	1,386	12.5	13	
Jimmy Graham	55	636	11.6	2	
Marquez Valdes-Scantling	38	581	15.3	2	
Randall Cobb	38	383	10.1	2	
Equanimeous St. Brown	21	328	15.6	0	

KICKING: Mason Crosby, 30-37 FGs, 34-36 PAT, 124 points

TACKLES: Blake Martinez, 144; Jaire Alexander, 66

SACKS: Kyler Fackrell, 10.5; Kenny Clark, 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Ha Ha Clinton-Dix, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	369.1	12	6
Rushing	104.2	22	9
Passing	264.9	9	5
Scoring	23.5	T14	T7
Third Down %	36.8	23	12
Punt Returns	6.6	22	7
Kick Returns	21.5	21	11
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	354.4	18	10
Rushing	119.9	22	12
Passing	234.5	12	6
Scoring	25.0	22	11
Interceptions	7	T29	T13
Sacks	44	T8	T6
Turnover Differential	0	T19	T10

Davis, who are going into their fourth seasons — it'll be Adams showing the way for youngsters Marquez Valdes-Scantling, Equanimeous St. Brown, J'Mon Moore and Jake Kumerow.

At running back, no one in the NFL has been more explosive the past two seasons than Aaron Jones, who led the league in yards per rush (5.5) last season but has dealt with knee injuries each of his first two years. With LaFleur's emphasis on the run, he'll have to stay healthy and productive.

That's the charge for veteran tight end Jimmy Graham, who wasn't the field-tilting player the Packers hoped he'd be last year. Despite drafting his eventual replacement in third-round pick Jace Sternberger, the Packers want Graham to be the mismatch he was for defenses earlier in his career.

On the line, the Packers boast one of the NFL's best left tackles in All-Pro David Bakhtiari, but the right guard job is wide open, and veteran right tackle Bryan Bulaga is in the final year of his deal. It may be time for a youth movement there, especially with LaFleur's switch to an outside zone run scheme that puts a premium on athleticism.

"We had a standard here of going to the playoffs every single year. We did that eight years in a row, and then the last couple of years obviously have been frustrating to finish," Rodgers says. "I think we're in a good spot."

DEFENSE LaFleur's first priority after taking the job in January was to retain Pettine, and once he did, the Packers set about acquiring the type of versatile pieces that fit well in Pettine's defense. So in free agency, general manager Brian Gutekunst added outside linebackers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith and safety Adrian Amos. Then, with his two first-round draft picks, he invested in the defense again, taking Michigan edge rusher Rashan Gary at No. 12 overall and Maryland safety Darnell Savage at No. 21.

The Packers also devoted their top two draft picks last year (Jaire Alexander, Josh Jackson) to the problematic cornerback position, giving Pettine a group in which only three contributors are over 26 years old and only one, Tramon Williams, is in his 30s.

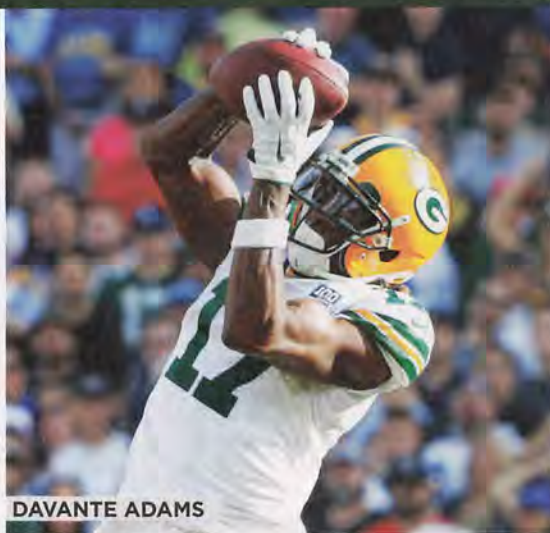
"I feel really good about the defense," Gutekunst says. "These guys have to come together as a team, but that takes a lot of work and a lot of time. I'm excited about Mike Pettine and the second-year guys we have in his system, but with the additions we've made, I think we're very optimistic about what these guys can do."

Despite tying for eighth in the NFL with 44 sacks, the Packers wanted to upgrade their pass rush, so they moved on from edge rushers Clay Matthews, who left in free agency, and Nick Perry, who was released. Now, Pettine has a host of players with varied skill sets he can plug into a myriad of spots.

"I'll tell you one thing, just being an offensive coach my entire career, you can never have enough pass rushers, and I think we definitely upgraded our ability to rush the passer," LaFleur says. "There's nothing harder on an offense, especially if you can rotate guys through and just keep sending fresh guys at an offensive line."

SPECIALISTS Veteran placekicker Mason Crosby had one bad game last season and a couple of other costly misses — including one that would have forced overtime as time expired in what turned out to be McCarthy's final game — but he's still the most reliable thing the Packers have going on special teams. After investing draft picks in punter JK Scott and Mississippi State long snapper Hunter Bradley last year and getting mixed results from both, the hope is they'll settle in more in Year 2. Meanwhile, the search for a dynamic returner continues.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even with Gutekunst's commitment to improving defensive personnel and LaFleur's vow to run the ball more, this team still rises and falls with Rodgers. After last year, it's easy to forget how good Rodgers was during the Packers' eight-game winning streak en route to a berth in the 2016 NFC Championship Game (2,384 yards, 21 touchdowns, one interception, 117.9 rating) and to start the 2017 season before fracturing his right collarbone (1,367 yards, 13 TDs, three INTs, 104.1 rating). If a new offense and new coach can bring back the old Rodgers, the Packers will be a playoff team once again.



DAVANTE ADAMS



2019 VETERAN PACKERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
8 Boyle, Tim	QB	6-4	232	1 Eastern Kentucky	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
9 Kizer, DeShone	QB	6-4	235	2 Notre Dame	T-Cle-18	D2-Cle-17	
12 Rodgers, Aaron	QB	6-2	225	14 California	D1-05	D1-GB-05	
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
22 Bibbs, Kapri	RB	5-10	203	3 Colorado State	W-Was-18	FA-Den-14	
32 Carson, Tra	RB	5-11	228	2 Texas A&M	FA-18	FA-Cin-16	
24 Coleman, Lavon	RB	5-11	216	1 Washington	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
46 Johnson, Malcolm	FB	6-1	231	3 Mississippi State	FA-18	D6-Cle-15	
33 Jones, Aaron	RB	5-9	208	2 UTEP	D5b-17	D5b-GB-17	
45 Vitale, Danny	FB	6-0	239	3 Northwestern	FA-18	D6-TB-16	
30 Williams, Jamaal	RB	6-0	213	2 BYU	D4b-17	D4b-GB-17	
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
17 Adams, Davante	WR	6-1	215	5 Fresno State	D2-14	D2-GB-14	
81 Allison, Geronimo	WR	6-3	202	3 Illinois	FA-16	FA-GB-16	
49 Baylis, Evan	TE	6-5	250	1 Oregon	FA-18	FA-Hou-17	
11 Davis, Trevor	WR	6-1	188	3 California	D5-16	D5-GB-16	
80 Graham, Jimmy	TE	6-7	265	9 Miami	FA-Sea-18	D3-NO-10	
16 Kumerow, Jake	WR	6-4	209	1 Wisc.-Whitewater	FA-17	FA-Cin-15	
13 Lazard, Allen	WR	6-5	227	1 Iowa State	PS-Jac-18	FA-Jac-18	
89 Lewis, Mercedes	TE	6-6	267	13 UCLA	FA-18	D1-Jac-06	
82 Moore, J'Mon	WR	6-3	205	1 Missouri	D4-18	D4-GB-18	
88 Redding, Teo	WR	6-1	176	1 Bowling Green	FA-18	FA-DET-18	
19 St. Brown, Equanimeous	WR	6-5	214	1 Notre Dame	D6-18	D6-GB-18	
85 Tonyan, Robert	TE	6-5	237	1 Indiana State	FA-17	FA-DET-17	
83 Valdes-Scantling, Marquez	WR	6-4	206	1 South Florida	D5c-18	D5c-GB-18	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
69 Bakhtiari, David	T	6-4	310	6 Colorado	D4a-13	D4a-GB-13	
75 Bulaga, Bryan	T	6-5	314	9 Iowa	D1-10	D1-GB-10	
71 Coyle, Anthony	G	6-4	298	1 Fordham	FA-18	FA-Hou-18	
72 de Beer, Gerhard	T	6-6	312	1 Arizona	FA-18	FA-Buf-18	
70 Light, Alex	T/G	6-5	309	1 Richmond	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
63 Linsley, Corey	C	6-3	301	5 Ohio State	D5a-14	D5a-GB-14	
61 Madison, Cole	G	6-5	308	1 Washington State	D5a-18	D5a-GB-18	
64 McCray, Justin	G	6-3	317	2 UCF	FA-17	FA-Ten-14	
68 Murphy, Kyle	T	6-6	305	3 Stanford	D6-16	D6-GB-16	
77 Pankey, Adam	G/T	6-5	313	2 West Virginia	FA-17	FA-GB-17	
62 Patrick, Lucas	G/C	6-3	313	2 Duke	FA-16	FA-GB-16	
78 Spriggs, Jason	T	6-6	301	3 Indiana	D2-16	D2-GB-16	
65 Taylor, Lane	G	6-3	324	6 Oklahoma State	FA-13	FA-GB-13	
77 Turner, Billy	G/T	6-5	310	5 North Dakota St.	FA-Den-19	D3-Mia-14	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
90 Adams, Montravius	DL	6-4	304	2 Auburn	D3-17	D3-GB-17	
98 Brown, Fadol	DL	6-4	282	1 Ole Miss	FA-18	FA-Oak-17	
97 Clark, Kenny	DL	6-3	314	3 UCLA	D1-16	D1-GB-16	
59 Cotton, Eric	DL	6-4	272	1 Stanford	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
76 Daniels, Mike	DL	6-0	310	7 Iowa	D4a-12	D4a-GB-12	
95 Lancaster, Tyler	DL	6-3	313	1 Northwestern	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
99 Looney, James	DL	6-3	287	1 California	D7a-18	D7a-GB-18	
4 Lowry, Dean	DL	6-6	296	3 Northwestern	D4b-16	D4b-GB-16	
79 Simon, Dean	DL	6-4	332	2 Northwestern State	FA-18	D7-NJ-15	
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
42 Burks, Oren	LB	6-3	233	1 Vanderbilt	D3-18	D3-GB-18	
54 Crawford, James	LB	6-2	239	1 Illinois	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
91 Donneron, Kendall	LB	6-3	249	1 Southeast Missouri	D7c-18	D7c-GB-18	
51 Fackrell, Kyler	LB	6-5	245	3 Utah State	D3-16	D3-GB-16	
93 Gilbert, Reggie	LB	6-3	261	1 Arizona	FA-16	FA-GB-16	
50 Martinez, Blake	LB	6-2	237	3 Stanford	D4a-16	D4a-GB-16	
58 Sheldon, Brady	LB	6-5	231	1 Ferris State	FA-18	FA-Oak-17	
91 Smith, Preston	LB	6-5	265	4 Mississippi State	FA-Was-19	D2-Was-15	
55 Smith, Za'Darius	LB	6-4	272	4 Kentucky	FA-Bal-19	D4a-Bal-15	
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
23 Alexander, Jaire	CB	5-10	196	1 Louisville	D1-18	D1-GB-18	
31 Amos, Adrian	DB	6-0	214	4 Penn State	FA-Chi-19	D5-Chi-15	
28 Brown, Tony	CB	6-0	199	1 Alabama	FA-18	FA-LAC-18	
36 Greene, Raven	S	5-11	197	1 James Madison	FA-18	FA-GB-18	
37 Jackson, Josh	CB	6-0	196	1 Iowa	D2-18	D2-GB-18	
21 Jamerson, Natrell	CB	5-11	201	1 Wisconsin	W-Hou-18	D5-NO-18	
24 Jones, Josh	S	6-2	220	2 NC State	D2b-17	D2b-GB-17	
20 King, Kevin	CB	6-3	200	2 Washington	D2a-17	D2a-GB-17	
34 Matthews, Tray	S	6-1	213	1 Auburn	FA-18	FA-Min-18	
25 Redmond, Will	CB	5-11	186	3 Mississippi State	FA-18	D3-SF-16	
38 Williams, Tramon	DB	5-11	191	12 Louisiana Tech	FA-Ari-18	FA-Hou-06	
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
43 Bradley, Hunter	LS	6-3	241	1 Mississippi State	D7b-18	D7b-GB-18	
2 Crosby, Mason	K	6-1	207	12 Colorado	D6c-07	D6c-GB-07	
7 Ficken, Sam	K	6-1	192	2 Penn State	W-Sea-19	FA-Jac-16	
6 Scott, JK	P	6-6	208	1 Alabama	D5b-18	D5b-GB-18	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	17	Davante Adams	16	Jake Kumerow
WR	81	Geronimo Allison	19	Equanimeous St. Brown
WR	83	Marquez Valdes-Scantling	82	J'Mon Moore
LT	69	David Bakhtiari	78	Jason Spriggs
LG	65	Lane Taylor	74	Elgton Jenkins (R)
C	63	Corey Linsley	62	Lucas Patrick
RG	77	Billy Turner	70	Alex Light
RT	75	Bryan Bulaga	61	Cole Madison
TE	80	Jimmy Graham	89	Mercedes Lewis
QB	12	Aaron Rodgers	9	DeShone Kizer
RB	33	Aaron Jones	30	Jamaal Williams

DEFENSE

DE	94	Dean Lowry	98	Fadol Brown
NT	97	Kenny Clark	95	Tyler Lancaster
DE	76	Mike Daniels	90	Montravius Adams
OLB	55	Za'Darius Smith	52	Rashan Gary (R)
ILB	42	Oren Burks	54	James Crawford
ILB	50	Blake Martinez	44	Ty Summers (R)
OLB	91	Preston Smith	51	Kyler Fackrell
CB	23	Jaire Alexander	37	Josh Jackson
CB	38	Tramon Williams	20	Kevin King
SS	31	Adrian Amos	36	Raven Greene
FS	26	Darnell Savage (R)	24	Josh Jones

SPECIALISTS

K	2	Mason Crosby	KR	82	J'Mon Moore
P	6	JK Scott	PR	11	Trevor Davis

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
S	Adrian Amos	Chicago
OLB	Preston Smith	Washington
OLB	Za'Darius Smith	Baltimore
OL	Billy Turner	Denver

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Bashaud Breeland	Kansas City
WR	Randall Cobb	Dallas
OLB	Clay Matthews	L.A. Rams
OLB	Nick Perry	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE PACKERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP GREEN BAY "With all the controversy surrounding the departure of former head coach Mike McCarthy and his relationship with Aaron Rodgers, that story has overshadowed the fact that this is an average football team. The offensive line is ordinary beyond David Bakhtiari, and the front seven is devoid of any difference-makers. Everything centers around A-Rod's health, and he was sacked 49 times a year ago but made it through 16 games while only throwing two interceptions. ... Aaron Jones and Jamaal Williams are serviceable backs, but neither has game-breaking talent. ... Rodgers and Jimmy Graham were better between the 20s than in the red zone, where they connected for only two scores. Davante Adams has emerged as their go-to guy. ... GM Brian Gutekunst was active in free agency by adding Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith to their pass rush and Adrian Amos to the back end. ... Kenny Clark is a dependable player, and Mike Daniels is expected to bounce back from a foot injury that pushed him to IR for the last six games. ... Outside linebacker Kyler Fackrell had a quiet but effective 10.5-sack season, and Blake Martinez is a steady Eddie on the inside. ... They drafted defensive end Rashan Gary, who is a curious fit in their front, and Darnell Savage to upgrade their safety position. ... The Packers are counting on Oren Burks to man one of the linebacker spots, and Kevin King needs to step up as an outside corner. ... While the biggest job of head coach Matt LaFleur will be partnering with Rodgers, the more difficult task might be leading this roster back to the playoffs in what is a very competitive NFC."



Packers IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Rashan Gary	OLB	6-5	277	Michigan
1.	Darnell Savage	S	5-11	198	Maryland
2.	Elgton Jenkins	OL	6-5	311	Mississippi State
3.	Jace Sternberger	TE	6-4	251	Texas A&M
5.	Kingsley Keke	DE	6-3	288	Texas A&M
6.	Ka'Dar Hollman	CB	6-0	196	Toledo
6.	Dexter Williams	RB	5-11	212	Notre Dame
7.	Ty Summers	ILB	6-1	241	TCU

Rashan Gary, whose production (3.5 sacks in his final college season) didn't match his vast talent, gives the Packers a versatile pass rusher who can line up inside or outside. But after playing with his hand down virtually all his career at Michigan, he will have to adjust to outside linebacker. Darnell Savage's remarkable speed (4.36-second 40-yard dash) gives the Packers a free safety who can cover a lot of ground. The hope is that he'll be the kind of player three-time Pro Bowler Nick Collins was before a career-ending neck injury in 2011. Elgton Jenkins can play all five positions on the line, while Jace Sternberger must improve his blocking. Dexter Williams should be part of the running back rotation. Kingsley Keke, Ka'Dar Hollman and Ty Summers are intriguing projects who will fight for roster spots and should contribute on special teams.

B-

Outside the Huddle

AARON RODGERS = JOHN WICK?

Ask David Bakhtiari what he's expecting from Rodgers in 2019, and the All-Pro left tackle and action movie aficionado's answer is immediate. "Have you ever seen 'John Wick'?" Bakhtiari asks rhetorically. "Did you ever see when they kill his dog?" For the unfamiliar, the John Wick films are a neo-noir action thriller series starring Keanu Reeves as a former hitman who comes out of retirement and goes on a killing spree to exact revenge on the gangsters who murdered his dog and stole his car. "That," Bakhtiari says after a dramatic pause, "is what I expect."

FAN-TASTIC Rodgers wasn't just the Milwaukee Bucks' highest-profile fan during the team's postseason run. He's also among the minority owners of the team and was court-side for several playoff games. "I'm excited about the squad. They had a fantastic season — 60 wins, No. 1 seed," Rodgers said as the playoffs began. "I'm excited about our chances. With them playing well, the Brewers obviously starting hot and having a good season last year, [it's] about time the Packers picked it up I think."

PRIME TIME The Packers are set to turn 100 years old in August, and the NFL honored its most historic team by having the Packers and Chicago Bears, another iconic franchise, face off in the first game of the year on Sept. 5 at Soldier Field in Chicago. The Thursday night opener was a departure from the past decade-plus of having the defending Super Bowl champions play in the first game of the next season. "It's pretty exciting," LaFleur says. "You start off right out the gate with the

total focus of the entire country or the entire world, especially in a game that means so much to so many within the league. It will be an exciting atmosphere. Opening day is always exciting, but when you have a rivalry game on top of that — and by the way, it's on Thursday night and you're the only game on — yeah, there's going to be a lot of excitement out there."

MADISON RETURNS Cole Madison, a 2018 fifth-round pick who spent last season on the reserve/did not report list after not showing up for training camp because of what the team called a personal issue, returned for the off-season program. Madison didn't delve into specifics about the kind of mental health issues he was dealing with. But he said the death of his former Washington State teammate and close friend Tyler Hilinski, who committed suicide in January 2018, was not the reason why he stayed away. In fact, Madison said Hilinski's sudden passing led him to seek help. "I was going through some stuff for a long time that I was putting off, and that caught up to me with the decisions off the field I was doing. I wasn't making good decisions, and it led to bad thoughts," Madison said. "Tyler, if anything, helped me with knowing that other people go through things, too. If anything, when that happened, it was a first beginning step of a wakeup call for me, how I needed to handle my mental health. I had my demons going on and no one had any idea what was going on. I love football, but at that point it was my health, and my life was on the line. I had to go help myself before my football career."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	12	🏆
2015	10	🏆
2016	10	🏆
2017	7	🏆
2018	6	🏆

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

5.7

The Packers turned the ball over on a league-low 5.7 percent of their offensive drives.

8.0

Green Bay's defense ended offensive drives with a turnover on just 8.0 percent of possessions, the fourth-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.95

Aaron Rodgers took an average of 2.95 seconds to throw, the fourth-slowest time in the league.



Minnesota VIKINGS

NFC North Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Zygi Wilf
Executive VP of Football Operations:
 Rob Brzezinski
General Manager: Rick Spielman
Stadium: U.S. Bank Stadium (66,655)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.vikings.com
Tickets: 612-33-VIKES
Training Camp: Twin Cities Orthopedics Performance Center (Eagan, Minn.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Mike Zimmer
Record With Team: 47-32-1
Career Record: 47-32-1
Offensive Coordinator: Kevin Stefanski
Defensive Coordinator: George Edwards
Special Teams Coordinator: Marwan Maalouf
Asst. Head Coach/Offensive Advisor:
 Gary Kubiak
Quarterbacks: Klint Kubiak
Running Backs: Kennedy Polamalu
Wide Receivers: Drew Petzing
Tight Ends: Brian Pariani
Run Game Coordinator/OL: Rick Dennison
Defensive Line: Andre Patterson
Linebackers: Adam Zimmer
Defensive Backs: Jerry Gray

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Sept. 15	at Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Sept. 22	Oakland	1:00	4-12	336.2 (23)	381.4 (26)	18.1 (28)	29.2 (32)
Sept. 29	at Chicago	4:25	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Oct. 6	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Oct. 13	Philadelphia	1:00	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Oct. 20	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Oct. 24	Washington (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)
Nov. 3	at Kansas City	1:00	12-4	425.6 (1)	405.5 (31)	35.3 (1)	26.3 (24)
Nov. 10	at Dallas	8:20	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Nov. 17	Denver	1:00	6-10	350.1 (19)	365.1 (22)	20.6 (24)	21.8 (13)
BYE							
Dec. 2	at Seattle (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)
Dec. 8	Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16)
Dec. 15	at L.A. Chargers	8:20	12-4	372.6 (11)	333.7 (9)	26.8 (6)	20.6 (8)
Dec. 23	Green Bay (Mon.)	8:15	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)
Dec. 29	Chicago	1:00	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)

It's time for Kirk Cousins to prove that the Vikings didn't make an \$84 million mistake on him. After missing the playoffs in the first year of Cousins' three-year, fully guaranteed deal, the Vikings strengthened their offense with an infusion of talent and veteran coaches who have a new, clearer vision that complements coach Mike Zimmer's old-school philosophy and star-studded defense. Assistant head coach/offensive advisor Gary Kubiak and offensive line coach/run game coordinator Rick Dennison were added to help newly promoted offensive coordinator Kevin Stefanski with a run-oriented, play-action attack that Cousins is familiar with from his days in Washington.

Defensively, 10 starters return to an experienced unit that has elite players at all three levels and was together two years ago when the Vikings led the league in yards and points allowed. So, no excuses, Kirk.

OFFENSE The short-lived oil-and-water era of Zimmer and John DeFilippo is now just a painful memory. Since he fired DeFilippo as his offensive coordinator after only 13 games, every move Zimmer has made has been designed to mesh with his philosophy. Why this wasn't done earlier is puzzling. Now, the question becomes, "Will it work?"

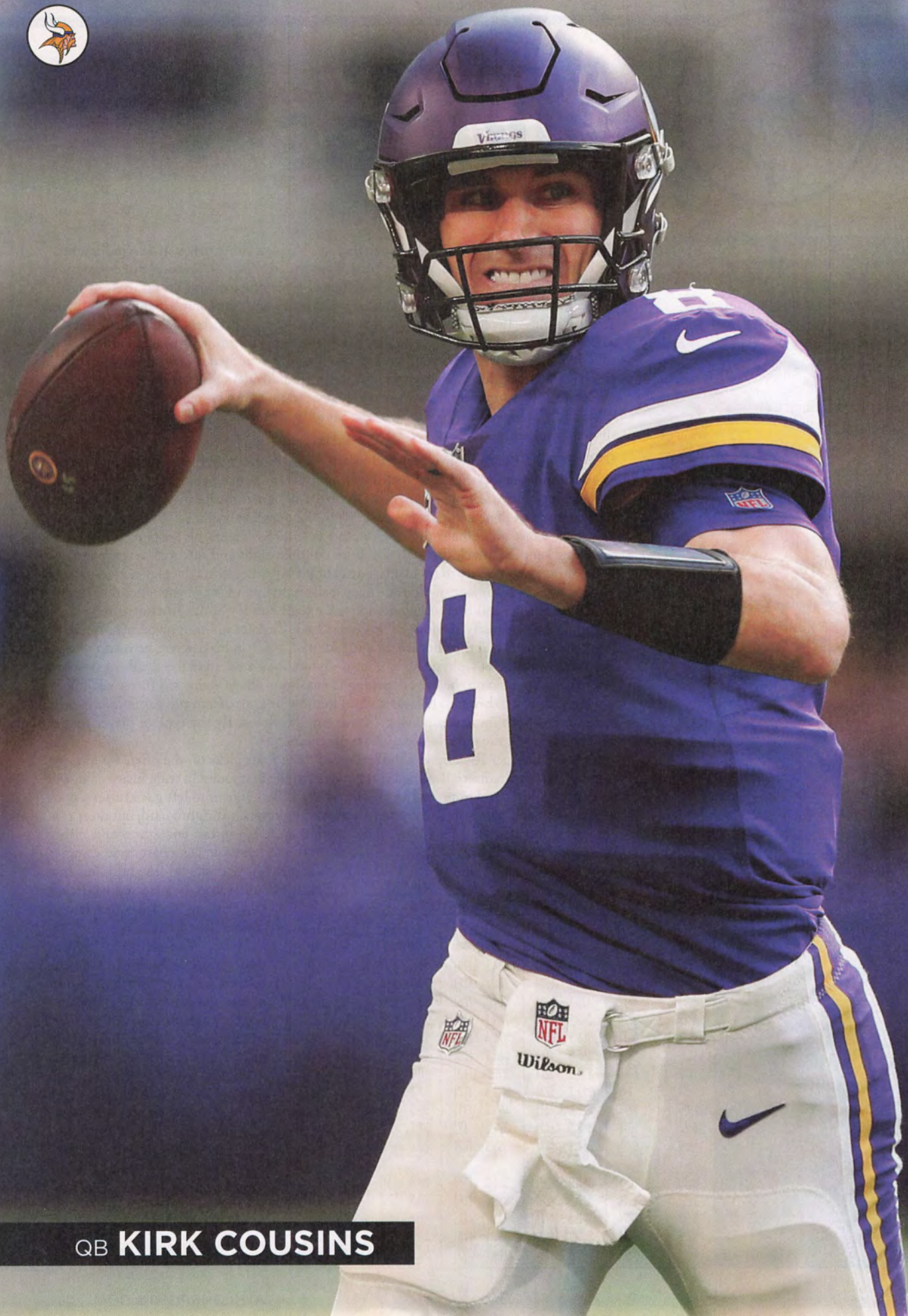
Kubiak won't coordinate the offense, but essentially this is his system. It's an outside-zone running attack that will use more multiple-tight end sets with fewer plays out of the shotgun. It will try to be a ball-control unit that strengthens the play-action passing game and takes advantage of Cousins' deep-ball accuracy and the mismatches that receivers Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs and rookie tight end Irv Smith Jr. can create.

DeFilippo repeatedly abandoned this old-school Zimmer philosophy because he didn't think the Vikings had the offensive line to pull it off. And, in his defense, he wasn't wrong. The line was atrocious physically and also discombobulated after the death of position coach Tony Sparano on the eve of training camp. The Vikings addressed this weak link by allowing Kubiak to bring in Dennison, his longtime line coach and run game coordinator. Zimmer has been impressed, saying, "these guys know exactly the type of player they're looking for" to fit the outside-zone blocking scheme.

General manager Rick Spielman then spent three draft picks on the offensive line, including Garrett Bradbury, the first center drafted in the first round in team history. He will be a Day 1 starter and improve the interior as Pat Elflein moves to left guard after a poor season. Former Titan Josh Kline provides a veteran presence at right guard, but don't rule out rookie fourth-round pick Dru Samia getting up to speed fast enough to take either that spot or the left guard position. He's ideal for this scheme and has a nasty side Zimmer loves. Right tackle Brian O'Neill, a second-round pick last year, should take off in his first

full season as a starter, while left tackle Riley Reiff has to rebound from a down year.

If the Vikings keep veteran tight end Kyle Rudolph, then the offense will use him and Smith at the same time to create mismatches against base defenses. At running back, rookie third-round pick Alexander Mattison needs work as a pass protector but will replace Latavius Murray's complementary role as an inside power runner and backup to Dalvin Cook, who has played only 15 games in his two seasons. If he stays healthy, Cook is perfect for this offense. He's a slasher who can make the proper one cut and accelerate. He's also good in the play-action screen game.



QB **KIRK COUSINS**



2018 RESULTS (8-7-1)

Sept. 9	San Francisco	W	24-16
Sept. 16	at Green Bay (ot)	T	29-29
Sept. 23	Buffalo	L	6-27
Sept. 27	at L.A. Rams	L	31-38
Oct. 7	at Philadelphia	W	23-21
Oct. 14	Arizona	W	27-17
Oct. 21	at N.Y. Jets	W	37-17
Oct. 28	New Orleans	L	20-30
Nov. 4	Detroit	W	24-9
Nov. 18	at Chicago	L	20-25
Nov. 25	Green Bay	W	24-17
Dec. 2	at New England	L	10-24
Dec. 10	at Seattle	L	7-21
Dec. 16	Miami	W	41-17
Dec. 23	at Detroit	W	27-9
Dec. 30	Chicago	L	10-24

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Kirk Cousins	606	425	4,298	30	10
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Dalvin Cook	133	615	4.6	2	
Latavius Murray	140	578	4.1	6	
Kirk Cousins	44	123	2.8	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Adam Thielen	113	1,373	12.2	9	
Stefon Diggs	102	1,021	10.0	9	
Kyle Rudolph	64	634	9.9	4	
Dalvin Cook	40	305	7.6	2	
Laquon Treadwell	35	302	8.6	1	
Aldrick Robinson	17	231	13.6	5	

KICKING: Dan Bailey, 21-28 FGs, 30-31 PAT, 93 points

TACKLES: Eric Kendricks, 108; Harrison Smith, 84

SACKS: Danielle Hunter, 14.5; Everson Griffen, 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Anthony Harris, 3; Harrison Smith, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	345.6	20	11
Rushing	93.3	30	15
Passing	252.3	13	8
Scoring	22.5	19	11
Third Down %	35.8	26	15
Punt Returns	10.9	6	2
Kick Returns	24.5	6	2
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	309.7	4	2
Rushing	113.4	15	9
Passing	196.3	3	1
Scoring	21.3	9	3
Interceptions	12	T18	T7
Sacks	50	T3	T1
Turnover Differential	0	T19	T10

DEFENSE The salary cap-strapped Vikings got an unexpected boost in free agency when linebacker Anthony Barr backed out of his verbal agreement with the Jets to accept less money from the Vikings. Barr doesn't make as many splash plays as fans would like, but no player is more in tune with Zimmer's defense, which meshes assignment-sound gap control with unpredictable blitz packages while having zero tolerance for freelancers.

On the line, left end Danielle Hunter is a future All-Pro with 40 career sacks at age 24, while Linval Joseph remains a massive, immovable nose tackle with the feet of a linebacker.

At linebacker, Barr on the strong side and Eric Kendricks in the middle have been in sync going back to their time together at UCLA in 2013. Kendricks has led the team in tackles in each of his four seasons.

Meanwhile, in the secondary, cornerback Xavier Rhodes and free safety Harrison Smith were first-team All-Pro two years ago. Smith remains a steady, instinctive force who can play in the box, deep or rushing off the edge. Rhodes is coming off a down year and has been challenged publicly by Zimmer, who told the media that Rhodes "needs to play up to his contract."

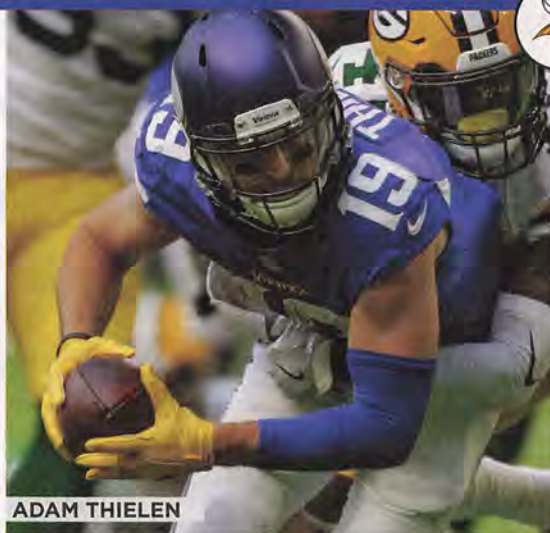
Losing under tackle Sheldon Richardson to free agency was a big blow. The Vikings did bring Shamar Stephen back after his one season in Seattle, but there will be a noticeable drop-off there. The other key departure defensively was strong safety Andrew Sendejo. But injuries limited him to only five starts last year, and chances are he would have lost his job to Anthony Harris, a more well-rounded player who's better in coverage.

Overall, this is a veteran group that moves in unison because of how long it's been in Zimmer's system. But there are question marks. When will cornerback Mike Hughes, last year's first-round pick, be back to full speed from the torn ACL that cut short his promising rookie season at nickel back? Will cornerback Trae Waynes show more consistency in a contract year? Will defensive end Everson Griffen regain his pre-2018 dominance after a down season that saw him miss five games while dealing with mental health issues?

But, barring injuries, Zimmer and his coordinator, George Edwards, should have all the tools they need. They also realized after a slump early last season that they needed to change things up as more teams have copied some of Zimmer's schemes. Zimmer runs fewer of his Double A-gap blitzes and now experiments with other blitz packages and nickel packages that use an extra linebacker, Eric Wilson, with a three-man line.

SPECIALISTS The special teams have a new coordinator for the first time since 2011 and a new punt returner for the first time since 2010. Marwan Maalouf, who spent the past six years as Miami's assistant special teams coordinator, replaces Mike Priefer, who left for Cleveland. At punt returner, a wide-open competition will be held to replace Marcus Sherels, the steadiest and best punt returner in team history. Dillon Mitchell and Olabisi Johnson, two rookie receivers, were drafted in the seventh round, in part because of their return abilities. Placekicker Dan Bailey made only 75 percent of his attempts last year but was re-signed in hopes he regains his old Cowboys form as he spends more time with holder Matt Wile and long snapper Kevin McDermott. Bailey was rushed off the street and into the fray last year to replace rookie Daniel Carlson, who melted down with three misses in a Week 2 tie at Green Bay. Ameer Abdullah is unproven as a kick returner but will be given first crack at the job.

FINAL ANALYSIS Yes, purple hearts have been broken far too many times to recount here. But Vikings fans should take that familiar leap once again and expect this team to take back the NFC North and compete for the Super Bowl. Barring significant injuries, this team has absolutely no excuses not to do so. Cousins is now settled in and will be running a new system with which he's familiar. The offensive line that torpedoed last season has been upgraded with talent and coaching. Tight end Irv Smith Jr. adds a key mismatch weapon. And the defense is a veteran-laded group that's been together a long time and is still in its prime. Time to step up and lead, Kirk.



ADAM THIELEN



2019 VETERAN VIKINGS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS				POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Cousins, Kirk	QB	6-3	202	7	Michigan State	FA-Was-18	D4a-Was-12		
4	Mannion, Sean	QB	6-6	223	4	Oregon State	FA-LAR-19	D3b-LAR-15		
1	Slotter, Kyle	QB	6-5	218	2	Northern Colorado	FA-17	FA-Den-17		
RUNNING BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
31	Abdullah, Ameer	RB	5-9	203	4	Nebraska	W-Det-18	D2-Det-15		
44	Boone, Mike	RB	5-10	206	1	Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
33	Cook, Dalvin	RB	5-10	210	2	Florida State	D2-17	D2-Min-17		
30	Ham, C.J.	FB	5-11	235	2	Augustana	FA-16	FA-Min-16		
48	Stanton, Johnny	FB	6-2	250	1	UNLV	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
32	Thomas, Roc	RB	5-10	198	1	Jacksonville State	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
RECEIVERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
85	Badet, Jeff	WR	5-11	182	1	Oklahoma	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
12	Beebe, Chad	WR	5-10	183	1	Northern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
83	Conklin, Tyler	TE	6-3	254	1	Central Michigan	D5a-18	D5a-Min-18		
14	Diggs, Stefon	WR	6-0	191	4	Maryland	D5b-15	D5b-Min-15		
87	Hikutini, Cole	TE	6-4	240	2	Louisville	FA-18	FA-SF-17		
89	Morgan, David	TE	6-4	265	3	UTSA	D6b-16	D6b-Min-16		
82	Rudolph, Kyle	TE	6-6	265	8	Notre Dame	D2-11	D2-Min-11		
18	Taylor, Jordan	WR	6-5	210	3	Rice	FA-Den-19	FA-Den-15		
19	Thielen, Adam	WR	6-2	200	5	Minnesota State	FA-13	FA-Min-13		
11	Treadwell, Laquon	WR	6-2	215	3	Ole Miss	D1-16	D1-Min-16		
15	Zylstra, Brandon	WR	6-2	215	1	Concordia-Moorhead	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
78	Bisnowaty, Adam	T	6-6	305	1	Pittsburgh	FA-18	D6-NYG-17		
76	Collins, Aviante	T	6-4	292	2	TCU	FA-17	FA-Min-17		
79	Dozier, Dakota	G	6-4	313	5	Furman	FA-NYJ-19	D4c-NYJ-14		
67	Edison, Cornelius	C	6-3	312	3	Portland State	FA-17	FA-Chi-15		
65	Elflein, Pat	G/C	6-3	303	2	Ohio State	D3-17	D3-Min-17		
69	Hill, Rashod	T	6-6	313	3	Southern Miss	PS-Jac-16	FA-Jac-16		
63	Isidora, Danny	G	6-3	306	2	Miami	D5b-17	D5b-Min-17		
61	Jones, Brett	C	6-2	315	3	Regina	T-NYG-18	FA-NYG-15		
64	Kline, Josh	G	6-3	300	6	Kent State	FA-Ten-19	FA-NE-13		
72	Norton, Storm	T	6-7	317	1	Toledo	FA-17	FA-Det-17		
75	O'Neill, Brian	T	6-7	297	1	Pittsburgh	D2-18	D2-Min-18		
71	Reiff, Riley	T	6-6	305	7	Iowa	FA-Det-17	D1-Det-12		
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
61	Aruna, Ade	DE	6-5	263	1	Tulane	D6b-18	D6b-Min-18		
90	Bower, Tashawn	DE	6-5	250	2	LSU	FA-17	FA-Min-17		
66	Cothran, Curtis	DT	6-5	283	1	Penn State	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
97	Griffen, Everson	DE	6-3	273	9	USC	D4-10	D4-Min-10		
92	Holmes, Jaly	DE	6-5	283	1	Ohio State	D4-18	D4-Min-18		
99	Hunter, Danielle	DE	6-5	252	4	LSU	D3-15	D3-Min-15		
94	Johnson, Jaleel	DT	6-3	316	2	Iowa	D4a-17	D4a-Min-17		
98	Joseph, Linval	DT	6-4	329	9	East Carolina	FA-14	D2-NYG-10		
51	Matafa, Hercules	DE	6-2	254	1	Washington State	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
95	Odenigbo, Ifeadi	DE	6-3	258	1	Northwestern	FA-18	D7b-Min-17		
78	Schult, Karter	DE	6-3	260	1	Northern Iowa	FA-19	FA-Cle-17		
93	Stephen, Shamar	DT	6-5	309	5	Connecticut	FA-Sea-19	D7a-Min-14		
91	Weatherly, Stephen	DE	6-5	265	3	Vanderbilt	D7a-16	D7a-Min-16		
LINEBACKERS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55	Barr, Anthony	LB	6-5	255	5	UCLA	D1a-14	D1a-Min-14		
40	Brothers, Kentrell	LB	6-1	242	3	Missouri	D5-16	D5-Min-16		
43	Cliett, Reshard	LB	6-2	225	2	South Florida	FA-18	D6-Hou-15		
57	Downs, Devante	LB	6-2	252	1	California	D7-18	D7-Min-18		
42	Gedeon, Ben	LB	6-2	244	2	Michigan	D4b-17	D4b-Min-17		
54	Kendricks, Eric	LB	6-0	232	4	UCLA	D2-15	D2-Min-15		
45	Martini, Greer	LB	6-3	232	1	Notre Dame	FA-19	FA-GB-18		
50	Wilson, Eric	LB	6-1	230	2	Cincinnati	FA-17	FA-Min-17		
DEFENSIVE BACKS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
20	Alexander, Mackensie	CB	5-10	192	3	Clemson	D2-16	D2-Min-16		
41	Harris, Anthony	S	6-1	202	4	Virginia	FA-15	FA-Min-15		
24	Hill, Holton	CB	6-2	196	1	Texas	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
21	Hughes, Mike	CB	5-10	189	1	UCF	D1-18	D1-Min-18		
36	James, Craig	CB	5-10	195	1	Southern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Min-18		
27	Kearse, Jayron	S	6-4	215	3	Clemson	D7b-16	D7b-Min-16		
35	Martin, Jordan	S	6-3	206	1	Syracuse	FA-19	FA-Min-19		
29	Rhodes, Xavier	CB	6-1	218	6	Florida State	D1b-13	D1b-Min-13		
37	Smith, Derron	S	5-10	200	3	Fresno State	FA-19	D6-Cin-15		
22	Smith, Harrison	S	6-2	214	7	Notre Dame	D1b-12	D1b-Min-12		
34	Thomas, Duke	CB	5-10	192	1	Texas	FA-19	FA-Hou-16		
26	Waynes, Trae	CB	6-0	190	4	Michigan State	D1-15	D1-Min-15		
SPECIALISTS				POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5	Bailey, Dan	K	6-0	190	7	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-Dal-11		
47	McDermott, Kevin	LS	6-5	240	6	UCLA	FA-15	FA-SF-13		
6	Wile, Matt	P	6-2	225	2	Michigan	W-Pit-18	FA-Car-15		

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	19	Adam Thielen	11	Laquon Treadwell
WR	14	Stefon Diggs	12	Chad Beebe
LT	71	Riley Reiff	72	Storm Norton
LG	65	Pat Elflein	63	Danny Isidora
C	56	Garrett Bradbury (R)	67	Cornelius Edison
RG	64	Josh Kline	73	Dru Samia (R)
RT	75	Brian O'Neill	69	Rashod Hill
TE	82	Kyle Rudolph	84	Irv Smith Jr. (R)
QB	8	Kirk Cousins	4	Sean Mannion
RB	33	Dalvin Cook	25	Alexander Mattison (R)
FB	30	C.J. Ham		

DEFENSE

DE	99	Danielle Hunter	90	Tashawn Bower
DT	93	Shamar Stephen	92	Jalyn Holmes
NT	98	Linval Joseph	94	Jaleel Johnson
DE	97	Everson Griffen	91	Stephen Weatherly
WLB	42	Ben Gedeon	59	Cameron Smith (R)
MLB	54	Eric Kendricks	50	Eric Wilson
SLB	55	Anthony Barr	57	Devante Downs
CB	29	Xavier Rhodes	24	Holton Hill
CB	26	Trae Waynes	21	Mike Hughes
FS	22	Harrison Smith	37	Derron Smith
SS	41	Anthony Harris	27	Jayron Kearse

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Dan Bailey	KR	31	Ameer Abdullah
P	6	Matt Wile	PR	15	Brandon Zylstra

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM	POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
OG	Dakota Dozier	N.Y. Jets	OG	Tom Compton	N.Y. Jets
RG	Josh Kline	Tennessee	S	George Iloka	Dallas
QB	Sean Mannion	L.A. Rams	DT	Tom Johnson	Free Agent
DT	Shamar Stephen	Seattle	RB	Latavius Murray	New Orleans
WR	Jordan Taylor	Denver	OG	Mike Remmers	Free Agent

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM	POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	Sheldon Richardson	Cleveland	DT	Sheldon Richardson	Cleveland
S	Andrew Sendejo	Philadelphia	S	Andrew Sendejo	Philadelphia
PR	Marcus Sherels	New Orleans	PR	Marcus Sherels	New Orleans

SCOUTING THE VIKINGS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP MINNESOTA "In what had to be considered a failed season, the Vikings did not make the playoffs much less contend for the Super Bowl. ... On paper, Kirk Cousins delivered a 4,298-yard season with 30 touchdowns and 10 interceptions, but the reality is that the offense was a pass-happy, dink-and-dunk operation. Their run game was nonexistent and finished 30th in the league. OC John DeFilippo was dismissed in December and now Kevin Stefanski along with Gary Kubiak will try to find the right balance with Cousins. ... Dalvin Cook has played in 15 total games in two years, so his durability is a primary concern. ... Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen complement each other well. However, Laquon Treadwell has been a major disappointment because he simply cannot separate. ... Kyle Rudolph is one of the NFL's best combination tight ends. ... The offensive line was a huge problem and is their weakest position group. GM Rick Spielman signed Josh Kline from the Titans, but he is not a difference-maker. One of the best picks in the first round was their selection of center Garrett Bradbury. ... Defensive end Danielle Hunter has developed into a legit game-plan wrecker. ... They have Pro Bowl-caliber talent at all three levels of the D. ... They staved off the Jets in keeping Anthony Barr, and Harrison Smith has become a consistent all-star. ... I love their corner group with Xavier Rhodes and Trae Waynes on the outside, and Mike Hughes should return from a torn ACL after being injured in the sixth game. ... They can challenge for the division, but I don't see them competing for a Super Bowl with this offensive line."



B+

Vikings

IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Garrett Bradbury	C	6-3	306	NC State
2.	Irv Smith Jr.	TE	6-2	242	Alabama
3.	Alexander Mattison	RB	5-11	221	Boise State
4.	Dru Samia	OG	6-5	305	Oklahoma
5.	Cameron Smith	ILB	6-2	238	USC
6.	Armon Watts	DT	6-5	300	Arkansas
6.	Marcus Epps	S	6-0	191	Wyoming
6.	Oli Udoh	OT	6-5	323	Elon
7.	Kris Boyd	CB	5-11	201	Texas
7.	Dillon Mitchell	WR	6-1	197	Oregon
7.	Olabisi Johnson	WR	6-0	204	Colorado St.
7.	Austin Cutting	LS	6-3	245	Air Force

For the first time since 1965, the Vikings used their first four picks on offensive players. The first three will either start or contribute from Day 1, while the fourth will be in the mix for one of the starting guard spots. Three linemen were selected, including a first-rounder for the first time since 2012. Garrett Bradbury will start at center Day 1, moving Pat Elflein to left guard. Irv Smith Jr. can line up anywhere and be the kind of mismatch tight end the Vikings haven't had. Alexander Mattison replaces Latavius Murray in a two-back system alongside Dalvin Cook. Dru Samia will push Elflein and veteran Josh Kline. Dillon Mitchell and Olabisi Johnson will compete in the return game. Austin Cutting will push incumbent long snapper Kevin McDermott.



Outside the Huddle

FRIENDLY SLATE Kirk Cousins loves the NFL schedule maker. The Vikings open at home and finish with two home games. They take trips to Lambeau and Soldier Field in September while the Packers and Bears travel to U.S. Bank Stadium in Weeks 16-17. "As a quarterback, I'm well aware of the weather and how nice it is to be in Green Bay and Chicago in September and not December," Cousins says.

PURPLE OVER PINSTripES Garrett Bradbury's first love was baseball. He excelled as a catcher and had visions of playing shortstop for the Yankees. "Yeah, that would have been cool," says the first center ever drafted by the Vikings in the first round. "But I think I'd rather be an O-lineman for the Vikings at this point."

CUTTING CORNERS General manager Rick Spielman had taken a cornerback in the first or second round four times in six years heading into this year's draft. Three of those were first-rounders, including last year's surprise pick, Mike Hughes. At his pre-draft press conference, Spielman was asked about his fan base's growing unrest with neglecting the offensive line. Said Spielman: "My wife, she said, 'If you draft another corner [on Day 1], don't come home. You can just stay at the office.'"

WRECKING BALL Cameron Smith's grandfather, Bob Lakata, played basketball for Duke in the '50s. So, naturally, Smith gave that sport a try. But the linebacker in him couldn't be contained. "I always fouled out around the second

quarter," says the rookie fifth-round draft pick from USC.

UNDRAFTED STEAL After signing his four-year, \$64 million extension, two-time Pro Bowl receiver Adam Thielen was asked by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* to take a look back at the 2013 NFL Draft. Twenty-seven receivers not named Thielen were drafted that year. Sixteen of them are out of the league. Three never played a down. And only two have made a Pro Bowl at receiver. "I do remember the Packers had interest before the draft," Thielen said. "The Packers were one of two teams that came up and talked to me right after the regional combine ended at Cowboys Stadium that year. I had that hope and dream that I'd get drafted. But when they took two receivers in the seventh round, I knew the writing was on the wall." The Packers picked Charles Johnson and Kevin Dorsey, 216th and 224th overall. They caught a total of one pass as Packers and are long gone. Johnson had a three-year stint with the Vikings.

DUAL THREAT Austin Cutting has two goals in mind: Long snapper for the Vikings and a military career with the United States Air Force. The Vikings drafted Cutting in the seventh round and are certain something can be worked out with the Air Force to allow him to play in the NFL while serving his 24-month military duty. Asked whether he thinks something will be worked out, Cutting says, "Those are decisions made above my pay grade."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	7
2015	11
2016	8
2017	13
2018	8

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

15.8

The Vikings allowed touchdowns on just 15.8 percent of their defensive drives, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.

5.3

Kirk Cousins outperformed his expected completion percentage by 5.3 percent, third highest in the NFL.

9.3

The Vikings sacked opposing quarterbacks on 9.3 percent of their drop-backs, the highest rate in the NFL.



Atlanta FALCONS

NFC South Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: Arthur Blank
President/CEO: Rich McKay
General Manager: Thomas Dimitroff
Stadium: Mercedes-Benz Stadium (71,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.atlantafalcons.com
Tickets: 470-341-4500
Training Camp: Atlanta Falcons Training Facility (Flowery Branch, Ga.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Dan Quinn
Record With Team: 36-28
Career Record: 36-28
Offensive Coordinator: Dirk Koetter
Defensive Coordinator: Dan Quinn
Special Teams Coordinator: Ben Kotwica
Assistant Head Coach/Passing Game Coordinator/WRs: Raheem Morris
Quarterbacks: Greg Knapp
Running Backs: Dave Brock
Tight Ends: Mike Mularkey
Offensive Line: Chris Morgan
Defensive Line: Jess Simpson
Linebackers: Jeff Ulbrich
Defensive Passing Game Coordinator/Secondary: Jerome Henderson
Defensive Backs: Doug Mallory

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	at Minnesota	1:00	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)	
Sept. 15	Philadelphia	8:20	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)	
Sept. 22	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Sept. 29	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	
Oct. 6	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4)	
Oct. 13	at Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)	
Oct. 20	L.A. Rams	1:00	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)	
Oct. 27	Seattle	1:00	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)	
BYE								
Nov. 10	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	
Nov. 17	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)	
Nov. 24	Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	
Nov. 28	New Orleans (Thu.)	8:20	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	
Dec. 8	Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)	
Dec. 15	at San Francisco	4:25	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)	
Dec. 22	Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4)	
Dec. 29	at Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	

The 2018 Atlanta Falcons season didn't go according to plan. The team started off the year on a sour note, losing safety Keanu Neal to an ACL injury and line-backer Deion Jones for a good chunk of the season to a foot ailment. The injury bug spread to safety Ricardo Allen, running backs Devonta Freeman and Ito Smith, defensive tackle Grady Jarrett, defensive end Derrick Shelby, guards Andy Levitre and Brandon Fusco, kicker Matt Bryant and long snapper Josh Harris at some point in the season. Eight major contributors were on IR by year's end.

Often in a season of injuries, team weaknesses get exposed. The Falcons defensive line and secondary struggled due to key personnel losses, and the offensive line couldn't withstand losing two guards. The Falcons are hoping better health, some roster tweaking and a revamped coaching staff — Dirk Koetter is back for his second stint as the offensive coordinator, and head coach Dan Quinn will also serve as the defensive play-caller — will allow them to return to contender status in the NFC.

OFFENSE The offense had a topsy-turvy season in its last under Steve Sarkisian's watch. The former offensive coordinator stepped down after watching an offense that averaged 28.5 points in the first eight games of the year slump to 23.3 in the final eight.

Quarterback Matt Ryan had a stellar campaign in spite of the general falloff, posting numbers similar to his 2016 MVP campaign (4,924 yards, 35 TDs, seven INTs). He was also more effective in the red zone, thanks in large part to the play of rookie Calvin Ridley. Ryan will be reunited with Koetter, who called plays in Atlanta from 2012-14.

The running game loses an electrifying talent in Tevin Coleman, who rushed for a career-high 800 yards while starting 14 games in 2018. Freeman is in the middle of a hard-earned contract, though he was limited to two games last season due to injury. It's a major question how he'll bounce back. If he can, he should be back to his elusive, elite ways. If not, the team will lean more on Smith, who rushed for 315 yards and four touchdowns in his first season. Rookie Qadree Ollison should get in on the action, too. And what will become of 2017 fifth-rounder Brian Hill, who came on strong late last season, with 115 yards rushing in a 24-20 win at Carolina in late December?

The receiving corps is largely intact from last season, with All-Pro Julio Jones, Mohamed Sanu and Ridley leading the charge. All three are good enough to be No. 1 options on most other teams. Koetter loves to air it out, and Atlanta has the perfect receiving group to do so. Jones continued his remarkable run last season, with 113 receptions for 1,677 yards and eight touchdowns (matching the second-highest total of his career). He has had at least 1,400 yard receiving in five straight seasons. Sanu caught 66 passes for a career-high

838 yards in his seventh season in the league. Ridley scored a team-high 10 touchdowns as a rookie. Justin Hardy returns and will be in the mix, and 2018 sixth-rounder Russell Gage will try to make a case to get more snaps.

Austin Hooper leads a talented group of tight ends that will be coached by Mike Mularkey — a former tight end in the league and a three-time head coach. Luke Stocker, who played for Mularkey in Tennessee, was added to the stable in the offseason. Stocker is mainly a blocking tight end but has grown as a receiving option. Logan Paulsen and Eric Saubert also return. Paulsen proved more worthwhile in the passing game than expected, while the team still



QB **Matt Ryan**



2018 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 6	at Philadelphia	L	12-18
Sept. 16	Carolina	W	31-24
Sept. 23	New Orleans (ot)	L	37-43
Sept. 30	Cincinnati	L	36-37
Oct. 7	at Pittsburgh	L	17-41
Oct. 14	Tampa Bay	W	34-29
Oct. 22	N.Y. Giants	W	23-20
Nov. 4	at Washington	W	38-14
Nov. 11	at Cleveland	L	16-28
Nov. 18	Dallas	L	19-22
Nov. 22	at New Orleans	L	17-31
Dec. 2	Baltimore	L	16-26
Dec. 9	at Green Bay	L	20-34
Dec. 16	Arizona	W	40-14
Dec. 23	at Carolina	W	24-10
Dec. 30	at Tampa Bay	W	34-32

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Matt Ryan	608	422	4,924	35	7
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tevin Coleman	167	800	4.8	4	
Ito Smith	90	315	3.5	4	
Brian Hill	20	157	7.9	0	
Matt Ryan	33	125	3.8	3	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Julio Jones	113	1,677	14.8	8	
Mohamed Sanu	66	838	12.7	4	
Calvin Ridley	64	821	12.8	10	
Austin Hooper	71	660	9.3	4	
Tevin Coleman	32	276	8.6	5	

KICKING: Matt Bryant, 20-21 FGs, 33-35 PAT, 93 points

TACKLES: De'Vondre Campbell, 94; Foyesade Oluokun, 91

SACKS: Takkarist McKinley, 7.0; two tied with 6.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Damontae Kazee, 7; Brian Poole, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	389.1	6	3
Rushing	98.3	27	12
Passing	290.8	4	2
Scoring	25.9	10	5
Third Down %	45.3	4	2
Punt Returns	7.0	19	5
Kick Returns	22.2	17	8

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	384.5	28	16
Rushing	124.9	25	15
Passing	259.6	27	14
Scoring	26.4	25	13
Interceptions	15	T9	T4
Sacks	37	T22	T13
Turnover Differential	+1	T15	T8

waits to see what it has in Saubert, a 2017 fifth-round draft pick who has yet to make an impact.

The Falcons' biggest offensive weakness, the line, could now be a strength. The team invested numerous resources in this unit, using 2019 first-round picks on guard Chris Lindstrom and tackle Kaleb McGary. Both will need time to grow but should be instant upgrades at the right guard and right tackle spots (assuming Lindstrom slots in there and not on the left side). Free agent James Carpenter figures to slot in at left guard, and left tackle Jake Matthews and center Alex Mack — both Pro Bowl talents — return to man their spots.



JULIO JONES

DEFENSE While health will largely fix Atlanta's 2018 problems at linebacker and safety, the Falcons' pass rush posted only 37 sacks last season. This suggests the team will need to get a bit more creative in order to apply consistent pressure on the quarterback. Enter Quinn as the new defensive coordinator. He'll be tasked to fix his defense's inconsistent rush once and for all. Fifth-year pass rusher Vic Beasley has struggled to meet his insane 2016 production (15.5 sacks), but the team showed confidence in him by granting his fifth-year option. Returning edge Adrian Clayborn — who spent last season with New England — certainly helps, as would more progress from 2017 first-rounder Takkarist McKinley and emerging pass rusher Steven Means.

The situation at defensive tackle is more promising. Jarrett boasts elite pass-rushing ability, and his tenacious rush support will need to be better than ever as the Falcons play in a division with Alvin Kamara and Christian McCaffrey. Run-stuffing defensive tackle Tyeler Davison comes over from New Orleans to provide depth. Jack Crawford flashed pass-rushing instincts that hint he's only going to improve, and second-year pro Deadrin Senat showed promise he can build on. Watch out for Justin Zimmer, a former undrafted free agent out of Division II Ferris State in Michigan, who could be a surprise roster addition. He made the team out of preseason camp last year but was eventually released.

The linebacker group will showcase Deion Jones, one of the best at his position, in the middle and the severely underrated De'Vondre Campbell on the strong side. Foyesade Oluokun, a sixth-round pick last year, has emerged as the front-runner for the weak-side spot in 2019. The team will rely on Jones' return to the middle of the defense to stabilize the communication that was missing last year.

The return of Neal and Allen will bolster the secondary. Neal's physicality, coverage skills and run support were sorely missed in 2018, as was Allen's leadership, communication and tackling. Damontae Kazee emerged in a breakout year in Allen's stead, though, and will switch over to the slot corner position, replacing Brian Poole. Desmond Trufant showed his prowess down the stretch last season, and second-year corner Isaiah Oliver will replace Robert Alford on the right. Oliver's development will be crucial as this group tries to improve after a disappointing 2018. The Falcons ranked 27th in the NFL last year in pass defense, allowing 259.6 yards per game.

SPECIALISTS Longtime coach Keith Armstrong parted ways with the organization this winter and will be replaced as special teams coach by Ben Kotwica, who comes over from Washington. Punter Matt Bosher and long snapper Josh Harris will continue on in their respective roles, but veteran kicker Matt Bryant wasn't retained. They'll try to replace Bryant with Giorgio Tavecchio, who went 5-of-5 on field goals (with four from 40-plus yards) while filling in for the injured Bryant last October. The returner battle will likely come down to free agent Kenjon Barner and draft pick Marcus Green.

FINAL ANALYSIS The Falcons' investments in the offensive line and decision to bring back Koetter to call the plays could get the team's attack back to elite status. That alone could be enough to make Atlanta a contender in a balanced NFC South.

But the real key will be on defense. Can Quinn handle the dual responsibilities of head coach and coordinator? And can the players expected to take on leading roles stay healthy? If not, it might not matter how many points Ryan and the offense score.



2019 VETERAN FALCONS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6 Benkert, Kurt	QB	6-4	215	1	Virginia	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
2 Ryan, Matt	QB	6-4	217	11	Boston College	D1a-08	D1a-Atl-08
8 Schaub, Matt	QB	6-6	245	15	Virginia	FA-16	D3a-Atl-04
RUNNING BACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
38 Barner, Kenjon	RB	5-9	195	5	Oregon	FA-Car-19	D6-Car-13
24 Freeman, Devonta	RB	5-8	206	5	Florida State	D4a-14	D4a-Atl-14
32 Hill, Brian	RB	6-1	219	1	Wyoming	FA-18	D5-Atl-17
43 Langford, Jeremy	RB	6-0	211	3	Michigan State	FA-18	D4-Chi-15
30 Ortiz, Ricky	FB	6-0	230	1	Oregon State	FA-18	FA-Bal-17
25 Smith, Ito	RB	5-9	195	1	Southern Miss	D4-18	D4-Atl-18
RECEIVERS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16 Blake, Christian	WR	6-1	181	1	Northern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
83 Gage, Russell	WR	6-0	184	1	LSU	D6a-18	D6a-Atl-18
87 Graham, Jaeden	TE	6-4	250	1	Yale	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
89 Gray, Alex	TE	6-4	230	1	Barnard Castle	FA-17	FA-Atl-17
15 Gray, Devin	WR	6-0	192	1	Cincinnati	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
14 Hardy, Justin	WR	5-10	192	4	East Carolina	D4-15	D4-Atl-15
81 Hooper, Austin	TE	6-4	254	3	Stanford	D3-16	D3-Atl-16
11 Jones, Julio	WR	6-3	220	8	Alabama	D1-11	D1-Atl-11
82 Pausen, Logan	TE	6-5	268	9	UCLA	FA-SF-18	FA-Was-10
18 Ridley, Calvin	WR	6-1	190	1	Alabama	D1-18	D1-Atl-18
12 Sanu, Mohamed	WR	6-2	240	7	Rutgers	FA-16	D3-Cin-12
85 Saubert, Eric	TE	6-5	253	2	Drake	D5-17	D5-Atl-17
82 Stocker, Luke	TE	6-5	253	8	Tennessee	FA-Ten-19	D4-TB-11
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
68 Brown, Jamon	G	6-4	340	4	Louisville	FA-NYG-19	D3-LAR-15
76 Brunskill, Daniel	T	6-5	260	1	San Diego State	FA-17	FA-Atl-17
77 Carpenter, James	G	6-5	321	8	Alabama	FA-NYJ-19	D1-Sea-11
Gettis, Adam	G/C	6-3	315	3	Iowa	FA-19	D5-Was-12
73 Gono, Matt	T	6-4	305	1	Wesley	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
64 Harlow, Sean	G	6-4	284	2	Oregon State	D4-17	D4-Atl-17
51 Mack, Alex	C	6-4	311	10	California	FA-16	D1-Cle-09
70 Matthews, Jake	T	6-5	309	5	Texas A&M	D1-14	D1-Atl-14
74 Sambrailo, Ty	T	6-5	315	4	Colorado State	T-Den-17	D2-Den-15
71 Schweitzer, Wes	G/C	6-5	314	3	San Jose State	D6-16	D6-Atl-16
73 Wetzel, John	OL	6-7	328	3	Boston College	FA-Ari-19	FA-Oak-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
44 Beasley Jr., Vic	DE	6-3	246	4	Clemson	D1-15	D1-Atl-15
99 Clayborn, Adrian	DE	6-3	280	8	Iowa	FA-NE-19	D1-TB-11
95 Crawford, Jack	DT	6-5	288	7	Penn State	FA-17	D5-Oak-12
96 Davison, Tyeler	DT	6-2	309	4	Fresno State	FA-NO-19	D5b-NO-15
Hageman, Ra'Shede	DT	6-6	318	3	Minnesota	FA-19	D2-Atl-14
97 Jarrett, Grady	DT	6-0	305	4	Clemson	D5-15	D5-Atl-15
98 McKinley, Takkarist	DE	6-4	230	2	UCLA	D1-17	D1-Atl-17
56 Means, Steven	DE	6-3	263	3	Buffalo	FA-18	D5-TB-13
91 Odom, Chris	DE	6-3	262	1	Arkansas State	FA-19	FA-Atl-17
94 Senat, Deadrin	DT	6-1	305	1	South Florida	D3-18	D3-Atl-18
79 Tuitt-Mariner, Jacob	DT	6-2	285	1	UCLA	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
92 Zimmer, Justin	DT	6-3	292	1	Ferris State	FA-18	FA-Buf-16
LINEBACKERS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
59 Campbell, De'Vondre	LB	6-4	232	3	Minnesota	D4-16	D4-Atl-16
55 Carter, Bruce	LB	6-2	240	7	North Carolina	FA-18	D2-Oal-11
53 Grace, Jermaine	LB	6-1	223	1	Miami	FA-18	FA-Atl-17
36 Ishmael, Kemal	LB	6-0	206	6	UCF	D7a-13	D7a-Atl-13
45 Jones, Deion	LB	6-1	227	3	LSU	D2-16	D2-Atl-16
54 Oluokun, Foyesade	LB	6-2	215	1	Yale	D6b-18	D6b-Atl-18
42 Riley, Duke	LB	6-1	230	2	LSU	D3-17	D3-Atl-17
DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
37 Allen, Ricardo	S	5-9	186	4	Purdue	D5a-14	D5a-Atl-14
38 Calhoun, Taveze	CB	6-1	188	1	Mississippi State	FA-18	FA-Chi-16
Cooper, Chris	S	5-10	202	1	Stony Brook	FA-19	FA-Ind-18
27 Kazez, Damontae	S	5-11	190	2	San Diego State	D5a-17	D5a-Atl-17
Laguda, Afolabi	S	6-1	214	1	Colorado	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
22 Neal, Keanu	S	6-1	216	3	Florida	D1-16	D1-Atl-16
40 Neal, Ryan	CB	6-3	200	1	Southern Illinois	FA-18	FA-Phi-18
41 Neasman, Sharrod	S	6-0	198	2	Florida Atlantic	FA-18	FA-Atl-16
20 Oliver, Isaiah	CB	6-1	195	1	Colorado	D2-18	D2-Atl-18
21 Trufant, Desmond	CB	6-0	190	6	Washington	D1-13	D1-Atl-13
29 Wilcox, J.J.	S	6-0	212	6	Georgia Southern	FA-Ind-19	D3-Dal-13
33 Wreh-Wilson, Bliidi	CB	6-1	190	6	Connecticut	FA-16	D3-Ten-13
SPECIALISTS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
5 Boshier, Matt	P	6-0	208	8	Miami	D6-11	D6-Atl-11
47 Harris, Josh	LS	6-1	224	7	Auburn	FA-12	FA-Atl-12
4 Tavecchio, Giorgio	K	5-10	180	1	California	FA-18	FA-SF-12

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Julio Jones	18	Calvin Ridley
WR	12	Mohamed Sanu	14	Justin Hardy
LT	70	Jake Matthews	74	Ty Sambrailo
LG	77	James Carpenter	71	Wes Schweitzer
C	51	Alex Mack	71	Wes Schweitzer
RG	63	Chris Lindstrom (R)	68	Jamon Brown
RT	76	Kaleb McGary (R)	74	Ty Sambrailo
TE	81	Austin Hooper	82	Luke Stocker
QB	2	Matt Ryan	8	Matt Schaub
RB	24	Devonta Freeman		Qadree Ollison (R)
RB	25	Ito Smith	38	Kenjon Barner

DEFENSE

DE	98	Takkarist McKinley	56	Steven Means
DT	96	Tyler Davison	94	Deadrin Senat
DT	97	Grady Jarrett	95	Jack Crawford
DE	44	Vic Beasley Jr.	99	Adrian Clayborn
SLB	59	De'Vondre Campbell	36	Kemal Ishmael
MLB	45	Deion Jones	55	Bruce Carter
WLB	54	Foyesade Oluokun	42	Duke Riley
CB	21	Desmond Trufant	27	Damontae Kazez
CB	20	Isaiah Oliver	33	Bliidi Wreh-Wilson
FS	37	Ricardo Allen	27	Damontae Kazez
SS	22	Keanu Neal	29	J.J. Wilcox

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Giorgio Tavecchio	KR	38	Kenjon Barner
P	5	Matt Boshier	PR	38	Kenjon Barner

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
RB	Kenjon Barner	Carolina
OG	Jamon Brown	N.Y. Giants
OG	James Carpenter	N.Y. Jets
DE	Adrian Clayborn	New England
DT	Tyler Davison	New Orleans
DT	Ra'Shede Hageman	Free Agent
TE	Luke Stocker	Tennessee
S	J.J. Wilcox	Indianapolis

KEY LOSSES

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
CB	Robert Alford	Arizona
K	Matt Bryant	Free Agent
RB	Tevin Coleman	San Francisco
OG	Brandon Fusco	Free Agent
OG	Ben Garland	San Francisco
DE	Bruce Irvin	Carolina
CB	Brian Poole	N.Y. Jets
DE	Brooks Reed	Arizona
S	Jordan Richards	Oakland

SCOUTING THE FALCONS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ATLANTA "The Falcons hit rock bottom due to a rash of injuries across their offense and defense. ... Dirk Koetter takes over the offense, and head coach Dan Quinn doubles down as his own defensive signal caller. ... Koetter must protect Matt Ryan and run the football more effectively in 2019, which will help their D. ... Despite misguided criticisms of his play, Ryan was superb in hitting about 70 percent of his throws for 4,924 yards, 35 touchdowns and only seven interceptions. ... They allowed Tevin Coleman to walk in free agency with the idea that Devonta Freeman will return from his knee injury and Ito Smith can spell him. ... Austin Hooper had 71 catches and four touchdowns, so he looks to be a long-term answer. ... Julio is Julio, just incredible production every year. He is a powerhouse on the outside and actually improved his red zone play. ... James Carpenter was added at left guard to solidify the blind side, then they drafted Chris Lindstrom and Kaleb McGary to secure the right side. ... Defensively, Quinn has to improve a unit that was 31st on third downs. They franchise tagged Grady Jarrett in hopes of securing a long-term deal before July. ... Quinn needs Takk McKinley and Vic Beasley to reach their pass-rush potential. ... The loss of Deion Jones to a foot injury was devastating; he is their leader and the epitome of today's modern linebacker. ... Robert Alford left for Arizona, so Isaiah Oliver will get first crack at the spot opposite of Desmond Trufant. ... I look for Atlanta to get back on the winning side of the ledger and push for the playoffs in 2019."



Falcons IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Chris Lindstrom	OG	6'4"	310	Boston College
1.	Kaleb McGary	OT	6'8"	325	Washington
4.	Kendall Sheffield	CB	6'0"	183	Ohio State
4.	John Cominsky	DE	6'5"	286	Charleston
5.	Qadree Ollison	RB	6-1	228	Pittsburgh
5.	Jordan Miller	CB	6'1"	186	Washington
6.	Marcus Green	RB	5'8"	190	ULM

Chris Lindstrom comes highly touted from the scouting community and could be a permanent solution for the Falcons at guard. Offensive tackle Kaleb McGary has a mean streak and adds even more skill and potential to the offensive line. Cornerback Kendall Sheffield is lightning fast but needs time to better learn the position. Edge rusher John Cominsky is raw but provides athleticism and could kick inside and play defensive tackle as well. Qadree Ollison rushed for 1,213 yards on a 6.3-yard average as a senior at Pitt. Cornerback Jordan Miller came with great value in the fifth round and should be a sound depth piece for now. Marcus Green will try to secure the return jobs and supplement the team's offensive arsenal.

B

Outside the Huddle

NEW BEST FRIENDS? New Falcons offensive linemen and first-round draft picks Chris Lindstrom and Kaleb McGary have met each other before. The two became friends at the 2019 Senior Bowl. Now the two first-round picks will grow even closer through a common goal of keeping the meanest of pass rushers away from QB Matt Ryan. Both could be in the starting lineup when the season starts.

COLLEGE TIES Lindstrom has something very much in common with the new quarterback he's blocking for: They're both former Boston College Eagles. However, there's one subject that Lindstrom will probably want to avoid around Ryan — the fact that he has a Patriots jersey, as he was a fan of New England at the time the Patriots overcame a 28-3 deficit and topped Ryan and the Falcons in the dramatic Super Bowl LI.

BEWARE OF THE BOOGEYMAN McGary is known for a nasty streak in his playing style. When he was drafted, he told the Falcons fans in an introductory video that he wanted to be known as "a boogeyman" for opposing defenders.

TWITTER IS COMING Ryan is known for throwing touchdown passes, but he, like so many others across the country, had a front-row seat for the battle for the Iron Throne. The quarterback was a regular live-tweeter during the final season of "Game of Thrones," taking part in the communal cultural phenomenon. Ryan even provided this interesting fan theory: "I'm convinced Bran can teleport."

SIBLING RIVALRY Second-year receiver Calvin Ridley might face off with his brother once again on the gridiron one day soon. His brother, Riley, was selected in the fourth round by the Chicago Bears in the 2019 draft. The two brothers played against each other one time in college, with Calvin's Alabama Crimson Tide knocking off Riley's Georgia Bulldogs in overtime to claim the 2017 national title. Could we see the Ridleys meet in an NFC Championship Game in the near future?

LOCAL LEGEND The Falcons brought back coach Jess Simpson to lead their defensive line after he had a stint in the collegiate ranks with the Miami Hurricanes. Simpson was a longtime high school football coach who won seven state titles at Buford High School in Georgia.

REUNITED Isaiah Oliver and Afolabi Laguda teamed together in the Colorado Buffaloes' secondary in college. Now, they are teammates once again in the NFL. Oliver was a second-round pick by the Falcons in 2018. Laguda went undrafted and spent last season with the Rams. He was signed by Atlanta during the offseason to a two-year deal.

FAMILIAR FACES Two familiar faces return to the Falcons' offensive staff. Dirk Koetter is back for his second stint as the offensive coordinator, a position he held from 2012-14. And Mike Mularkey, Atlanta's OC from 2008-11, is now the tight ends coach. Both left the Falcons for head coaching positions, Koetter with Tampa Bay and Mularkey with Jacksonville.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

37.97

The Falcons averaged 37.97 yards per offensive drive, the fourth most in the NFL. ...

37.18

But they allowed 37.18 yards per defensive drive, the third most in the NFL.

45.6

Julio Jones led the NFL in percentage of intended air yards, garnering 45.6 percent of his team's total intended air yards.



Carolina PANTHERS

NFC South Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: David A. Tepper
General Manager: Marty Hurney
Director of Pro Personnel: Matt Allen
Director of Football Operations: Bryan Porter
Stadium: Bank of America Stadium (75,525)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.panthers.com
Tickets: 704-358-7253
Training Camp: Wofford College (Spartanburg, S.C.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Ron Rivera
Record With Team: 71-56-1
Career Record: 71-56-1
Offensive Coordinator: Norv Turner
Defensive Coordinator: Eric Washington
Special Teams Coordinator: Chase Blackburn
Quarterbacks: Scott Turner
Running Backs: Jake Peetz
Wide Receivers: Jim Hostler
Tight Ends: Pete Hoener
Offensive Line: TBD
Defensive Line: Sam Mills III
Linebackers: Steve Russ
Safeties: Richard Rodgers
Secondary: Perry Fewell

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	L.A. Rams	1:00	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)	
Sept. 12	Tampa Bay (Thu.)	8:20	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	
Sept. 22	at Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)	
Sept. 29	at Houston	1:00	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (41)	
Oct. 6	Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (41)	
Oct. 13	vs. Tampa Bay (London)	9:30 am	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	
BYE								
Oct. 27	at San Francisco	4:05	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)	
Nov. 3	Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)	
Nov. 10	at Green Bay	1:00	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14)	25.0 (22)	
Nov. 17	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)	
Nov. 24	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	
Dec. 1	Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)	
Dec. 8	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)	
Dec. 15	Seattle	1:00	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6)	21.7 (11)	
Dec. 22	at Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)	
Dec. 29	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	

The Carolina Panthers appeared to have a playoff berth well in hand at the midpoint of the 2018 season at 6-2. Then everything disintegrated. Cam Newton hurt his throwing shoulder (again). The defense suddenly looked old and predictable. The Panthers went a disastrous 1-7 over the season's second half, which dropped them to 7-9 and out of the postseason.

The offseason understandably saw major changes in both the locker room and the Panthers' on-field leadership, as old-guard players such as center Ryan Kalil, linebacker Thomas Davis and defensive end Julius Peppers all either retired or changed teams.

But the Panthers have some dynamic offensive weapons and usually are solid on defense, which is largely why the team has made the playoffs four times in the past six years. Young players such as running back Christian McCaffrey, wide receiver DJ Moore and cornerback Donte Jackson are all capable of Pro Bowl-type seasons.

OFFENSE Newton, now 30, has had two surgeries in less than three years on his throwing shoulder. His repaired right arm once again holds the key to a lot of the Panthers' fortunes. Newton embraced offensive coordinator Norv Turner's admonition to get the ball out quicker in 2018, which resulted in a career-high 67.9 percent completion rate before he was sidelined for the season's final two games with lingering shoulder trouble.

The Panthers' backup QB plan improved when the team drafted West Virginia's Will Grier in the third round, but Grier doesn't have Newton's natural arm strength and will also be learning the system from scratch. Kyle Allen and Taylor Heinicke, who both started a game in Newton's stead last season, will also compete for the No. 2 job.

Newton will play in front of an offensive line that may have a rookie at left tackle in Greg Little and a first-year Panther — veteran Matt Paradis, an expensive replacement for Ryan Kalil — at center who will be counted on to be a vocal leader.

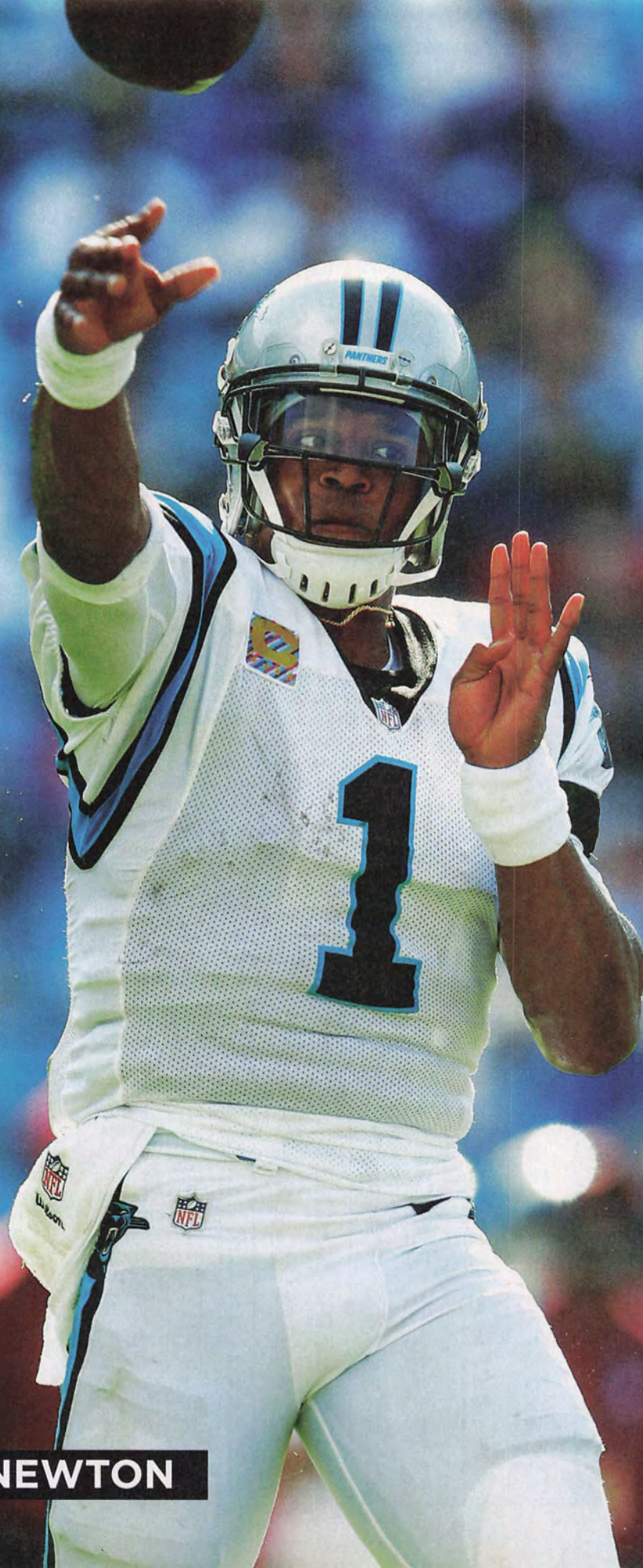
Taylor Moton has quick enough feet to play either tackle spot, but he will likely start on the right side if Little works out. Daryl Williams, who had a knee injury that scuttled 2018, could also be a factor at tackle if he can stay healthy. Moton and Williams are also capable of playing left guard, and one of them may well do so as Carolina strives to get its five best linemen on the field at the same time. Right guard Trai Turner is a bulldozer.

Newton has a bevy of weapons at his disposal. McCaffrey set an NFL record for running backs with 107 receptions in 2018, and no RB in the league runs better routes out of the backfield. His elusiveness makes him elite, but the Panthers want to give him a little more rest in 2019, especially on downs when the tailback is called upon to pass block. Moore is a fierce runner after the catch and should get the ball more in 2019 as the Panthers attempt to make him their

clear No. 1 wide receiver.

Tight end Greg Olsen used to be Newton's favorite target and has some of the best hands in team history, but the quarterback has had to live without him for 16 of the last 32 games because of Olsen's foot injuries. If Olsen can play all season, the Panthers' third down conversion percentage will undoubtedly improve. Second-year tight end Ian Thomas has shown flashes but is raw.

At the second and third receiver spots, the Panthers will likely use speedster Curtis Samuel and free agent acquisition Chris Hogan, formerly of New England. Samuel scored a touchdown every 6.7 touches from scrimmage in



QB **CAM NEWTON**



2018 RESULTS (7-9)

Sept. 9	Dallas	W	16-8
Sept. 16	at Atlanta	L	24-31
Sept. 23	Cincinnati	W	31-21
Oct. 7	N.Y. Giants	W	33-31
Oct. 14	at Washington	L	17-23
Oct. 21	at Philadelphia	W	21-17
Oct. 28	Baltimore	W	36-21
Nov. 4	Tampa Bay	W	42-28
Nov. 8	at Pittsburgh	L	21-52
Nov. 18	at Detroit	L	19-20
Nov. 25	Seattle	L	27-30
Dec. 2	at Tampa Bay	L	17-24
Dec. 9	at Cleveland	L	20-26
Dec. 17	New Orleans	L	9-12
Dec. 23	Atlanta	L	10-24
Dec. 30	at New Orleans	W	33-14

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Cam Newton	471	320	3,395	24	13
Taylor Heinicke	57	35	320	1	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Christian McCaffrey	219	1,098	5.0	7
Cam Newton	101	488	4.8	4
DJ Moore	13	172	13.2	0
C.J. Anderson	24	104	4.3	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
Christian McCaffrey	107	867	8.1	6
DJ Moore	55	788	14.3	2
Devin Funchess	44	549	12.5	4
Curtis Samuel	39	494	12.7	5

KICKING: Graham Gano, 14-16 FGs, 30-33 PAT, 72 points

TACKLES: Luke Kuechly, 130; two tied with 79

SACKS: Mario Addison, 9.0; Julius Peppers, 5.0

INTERCEPTIONS: Donte Jackson, 4; Mike Adams, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	373.3	10	5
Rushing	133.5	4	3
Passing	239.8	16	10
Scoring	23.5	T14	T7
Third Down %	41.6	9	5
Punt Returns	6.9	20	6
Kick Returns	22.4	16	7

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	353.2	15	7
Rushing	112.8	12	6
Passing	240.4	18	11
Scoring	23.9	19	9
Interceptions	13	T15	6
Sacks	35	27	15
Turnover Differential	+1	T15	T8

2018 and has to get the ball more often. Hogan is also a threat on deep balls and can be used in the slot, too, where crafty Jarius Wright also makes an occasional key contribution.

DEFENSE After ranking among the top six in the NFL in sacks from 2015-17 and disguising what was too often an average secondary with that pass rush, the Panthers plummeted to 27th in sacks in 2018. In an NFC South brimming with effective quarterbacks, that exposed a secondary that was burned too often.

The secondary's personnel will be largely unchanged, but the Panthers hope that the pass rush will be enhanced with the addition of No. 1 pick Brian Burns, a speedy edge rusher from Florida State. Burns will have a shot at substantial playing time right away with the retirement of Peppers. The Panthers also signed veteran defensive end Bruce Irvin, who is trying to wrangle one more good year out of his 31-year-old body. Irvin's best seasons came in Seattle.

Panthers head coach Ron Rivera stripped defensive coordinator Eric Washington of some of his power late in the 2018 season when Rivera took over as the defensive signal caller for the final four games in the midst of what became a seven-game losing streak. That curious arrangement will extend to this year, with Washington still retaining the coordinator title and supervising the front seven but Rivera — who made his NFL bones as a DC — calling the game.

The Panthers have to get more out of highly paid defensive tackle Kawann Short, whose three sacks in 2018 were the fewest he's had since his rookie year (2013). The same goes for Dontari Poe, who was Carolina's big-money free agent signing in 2018 but wasn't nearly disruptive enough up the middle (which is the best way to attack a quarterback like Drew Brees of the Saints). Defensive end Mario Addison is the Panthers' most consistent pass rusher and has had at least nine sacks for each of the past three seasons.

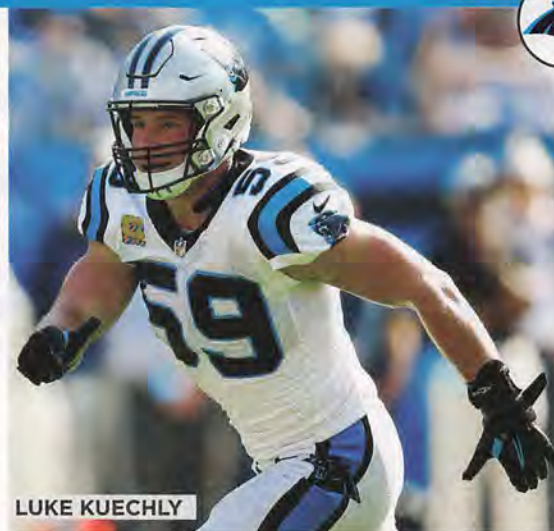
Luke Kuechly is clearly the Panthers' best player on defense, and his combination of speed and brains is almost unprecedented. He won't have Davis beside him this year, but outside linebacker Shaq Thompson still has some upside that he has yet to tap.

The secondary will be bolstered by the three-year contract signed by Eric Reid, the hard-hitting strong safety who is best known for joining Colin Kaepernick's protest of social inequality. A strong season from Reid would go a long way toward shoring up Carolina's last line of defense. The other safety spot is up for grabs, with Rashaan Gaulden having an inside track due to his athleticism.

Jackson, a speedy cornerback, has a little Josh Norman in him in terms of his swagger and his locker room quotability. Jackson is a gambler and had a team-high four interceptions last season as a rookie, but he also sometimes gets beat when he shouldn't. The other starter is James Bradberry, who isn't as fast as Jackson and doesn't have the same knack for interceptions, either. But he's big enough to wrestle with the NFC South's top receivers off the line. Nickel corner will be up for grabs, with Corn Elder having a slight edge.

SPECIALISTS Graham Gano still has one of the strongest legs in the NFL, as evidenced by the 63-yard field goal he hit against the Giants in October 2018 to win a game with one second left. Gano missed the end of 2018 with a left knee injury but is expected to return at full strength. Punter Michael Palardy is very consistent. Long snapper J.J. Jansen enters his 11th year doing his one thing very well. The kickoff and punt returner jobs are in flux. Rashad Ross, a burner who starred in the very brief existence of the AAF, could make the team as a return specialist.

FINAL ANALYSIS If Newton and Kuechly stay healthy and get some solid contributions from the youngsters — particularly McCaffrey and Moore — the Panthers will once again be relevant in the NFC. If it all goes south again, however, Rivera and general manager Marty Hurney will both be very concerned about their job security. Owner David Tepper likes to shake up the status quo when he believes it is justified, and he didn't buy the team before the 2018 season to miss the playoffs two years in a row.



LUKE KUECHLY



2019 VETERAN

PANTHERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
7 Allen, Kyle	QB	6-3	210	1	Houston	FA-18	FA-Car-18
6 Heinicke, Taylor	QB	6-1	210	3	Old Dominion	FA-18	FA-Min-15
1 Newton, Cam	QB	6-5	245	8	Auburn	D1-11	D1-Car-11
RUNNING BACKS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
40 Armah, Alex	FB	6-2	255	2	West Georgia	D6-17	D6-Car-17
34 Artis-Payne, Cameron	RB	5-10	215	4	Auburn	D5b-15	D5b-Car-15
39 Bonnafon, Reggie	RB	6-0	215	1	Louisville	FA-18	FA-Car-18
30 Hood, Elijah	RB	5-11	230	1	North Carolina	W-Oak-18	D7-Oak-17
22 McCaffrey, Christian	RB	5-11	205	2	Stanford	D1-17	D1-Car-17
RECEIVERS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
Baugh, Marcus	TE	6-4	245	1	Ohio State	FA-19	FA-Oak-18
86 Duarte, Thomas	TE	6-2	245	1	UCLA	FA-19	D7-Mia-16
14 Frazier, Mose	WR	5-11	190	1	Memphis	FA-17	FA-Den-16
15 Hogan, Chris	WR	6-1	210	6	Monmouth	FA-NE-19	FA-SF-11
Hunt, Cole	TE	6-7	255	1	TCU	FA-19	FA-LAC-18
16 Levrone, Andre	WR	6-2	222	1	Virginia	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
82 Manhertz, Chris	TE	6-6	255	3	Canisius	W-NO-16	FA-Buf-14
12 Moore, DJ	WR	6-0	210	1	Maryland	D1-18	D1-Car-18
88 Olsen, Greg	TE	6-5	255	12	Miami	T-Chi-11	D1-Chi-07
19 Ross, Rashad	WR	6-0	180	3	Arizona State	FA-19	FA-Ten-13
10 Samuel, Curtis	WR	5-11	195	2	Ohio State	D2a-17	D2a-Car-17
11 Smith, Torrey	WR	6-0	205	8	Maryland	T-Phi-18	D2-Bal-11
80 Thomas, Ian	TE	6-4	260	1	Indiana	D4a-18	D4a-Car-18
84 Vander Laan, Jason	TE	6-3	245	1	Ferris State	FA-18	FA-NJ-16
16 White, DeAndrew	WR	6-0	195	2	Alabama	FA-18	FA-SF-15
13 Wright, Jarius	WR	5-10	191	7	Arkansas	FA-18	D4-Min-12
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
76 Collins, Parker	C	6-3	295	1	Appalachian State	FA-19	FA-Jac-17
75 Greene, Brandon	G	6-5	295	1	Alabama	FA-19	FA-Chi-17
66 Gordon, Dillon	T	6-4	322	2	LSU	W-KC-19	FA-Phi-16
62 Hearn, Taylor	G	6-4	315	1	Clemson	FA-18	FA-Car-18
64 Johnson, Dorian	G	6-5	305	1	Pittsburgh	FA-17	D4-Ari-17
69 Larsen, Tyler	C	6-4	325	3	Utah State	FA-16	FA-Mia-14
63 Mahon, Brendan	G	6-4	320	1	Penn State	FA-18	FA-Car-18
72 Moton, Taylor	T	6-5	325	2	Western Michigan	D2b-17	D2b-Car-17
77 O'Brien, Kitt	G	6-5	325	1	Ball State	FA-19	FA-Ind-15
61 Paradis, Matt	C	6-3	300	4	Boise State	FA-Den-19	D6-Den-14
68 Silberman, Ian	G	6-5	305	2	Boston College	FA-18	D6-SF-15
78 Turner, Landon	G	6-4	325	1	North Carolina	FA-18	FA-NO-16
70 Turner, Trai	G	6-3	315	5	LSU	D3-14	D3-Car-14
73 Van Roten, Greg	G	6-3	305	4	Pennsylvania	FA-17	D2-Bal-11
60 Williams, Daryl	G/T	6-6	330	4	Oklahoma	D4-15	D4-Car-15
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
97 Addison, Mario	DE	6-3	260	8	Troy	FA-12	FA-Chi-11
71 Barnes, T.J.	DT	6-6	355	3	Georgia Tech	FA-19	FA-Jac-13
92 Butler, Vernon	DE	6-4	330	3	Louisiana Tech	D1-16	D1-Car-16
91 Cox Jr., Bryan	DT	6-3	270	2	Florida	FA-17	FA-Car-17
77 Hamilton, Woodrow	DT	6-3	315	1	Ole Miss	FA-18	FA-NE-16
55 Irvin, Bruce	DE	6-3	250	7	West Virginia	FA-Atl-19	D1-Sea-12
93 Love, Kyle	DT	6-1	310	7	Mississippi State	FA-NE-10	FA-NE-10
94 Obada, Efe	DE	6-6	265	1	None	FA-17	FA-Dal-15
96 Poe, Dontari	DT	6-3	346	7	Memphis	FA-Atl-18	D1-KC-12
76 Qualls, Elijah	DT	6-1	320	2	Washington	FA-18	D6-Phi-17
99 Short, Kawann	DT	6-3	315	6	Purdue	D2-13	D2-Car-13
75 Vaeao, Destiny	DT	6-4	299	3	Washington State	FA-NYJ-19	FA-Phi-16
LINEBACKERS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
56 Carter Jr, Jermaine	LB	6-1	225	1	Maryland	D5-18	D5-Car-18
48 Celestin, Jonathan	LB	6-2	232	1	Minnesota	FA-19	FA-Atl-18
50 Chubb, Brandon	LB	6-1	245	2	Wake Forest	FA-18	FA-LAR-16
98 Haynes, Marquis	LB	6-2	235	1	Ole Miss	D4b-18	D4b-Car-18
53 Jacobs, Ben	LB	6-4	240	4	Fresno State	FA-16	FA-Cle-11
59 Kuechly, Luke	LB	6-3	238	7	Boston College	D1-12	D1-Car-12
52 Norris, Jared	LB	6-1	238	3	Utah	FA-16	FA-Car-16
57 Smith, Andre	LB	6-0	240	1	North Carolina	D7a-18	D7a-Car-18
54 Thompson, Shaq	LB	6-0	230	4	Washington	D1-15	D1-Car-15
49 Williams, Antwione	LB	6-3	250	2	Georgia Southern	FA-18	D5-Det-16
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
29 Adams, Mike	S	5-11	205	15	Delaware	FA-Ind-17	FA-SF-04
37 Blanding, Quin	S	6-2	207	1	Virginia	FA-18	FA-Was-18
24 Bradberry, James	CB	6-1	212	3	Samford	D2-16	D2-Car-16
47 Cockrell, Ross	CB	6-0	190	5	Duke	FA-NYG-18	D4-Buf-14
31 Doss, Lorenzo	CB	5-11	185	4	Tulane	FA-18	D5-Den-15
35 Elder, Corn	CB	5-10	185	2	Miami	D5-17	D5-Car-17
28 Gaulden, Rashawn	S	6-1	200	1	Tennessee	D3-18	D3-Car-18
26 Jackson, Donte	CB	5-10	180	1	LSU	D2-18	D2-Car-18
42 Jones, Collin	S	6-0	205	8	TCU	T-SF-12	D6b-SF-11
32 Luke, Cole	S	5-11	200	2	Notre Dame	FA-17	FA-Car-17
36 Nacua, Kai	S	6-0	205	2	BYU	FA-18	FA-Cle-17
45 Parns, Damian	S	6-2	210	1	Florida Atlantic	FA-17	FA-Atl-15
25 Reid, Eric	S	6-1	215	6	LSU	FA-18	D1-SF-13
23 Seymour, Kevon	CB	6-0	185	3	USC	T-Buf-17	D6-Buf-16
27 Thornton, Josh	CB	5-11	185	1	Southern Utah	FA-19	D6-Det-17
SPECIALISTS							
POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
9 Gano, Graham	K	6-2	202	9	Florida State	FA-12	FA-Bal-09
44 Jansen, J.J.	LS	6-2	235	11	Notre Dame	T-GB-09	FA-GB-08
5 Palardy, Michael	P	5-11	200	3	Tennessee	FA-16	FA-Oak-14

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	12	DJ Moore	11	Torrey Smith
WR	10	Curtis Samuel	15	Chris Hogan
LT	74	Greg Little (R)	65	Dennis Daley (R)
LG	60	Daryl Williams	73	Greg Van Roten
C	61	Matt Paradis	69	Tyler Larsen
RG	70	Trai Turner	63	Brendan Mahon
RT	72	Taylor Moton	60	Daryl Williams
TE	88	Greg Olsen	80	Ian Thomas
QB	1	Cam Newton	3	Will Grier (R)
Slot	15	Chris Hogan	13	Jarius Wright
RB	22	Christian McCaffrey	34	Cameron Artis-Payne

DEFENSE

DE	97	Mario Addison	94	Efe Obada
DT	99	Kawann Short	92	Vernon Butler
DT	95	Dontari Poe	93	Kyle Love
DE	55	Bruce Irvin	53	Brian Burns (R)
OLB	54	Shaq Thompson	50	Christian Miller (R)
MLB	59	Luke Kuechly	56	Jermaine Carter
OLB	52	Jared Norris	98	Marquis Haynes
CB	26	Donte Jackson	35	Corn Elder
CB	24	James Bradberry	47	Ross Cockrell
SS	25	Eric Reid	42	Colin Jones
FS	28	Rashawn Gaulden	37	Quin Blanding

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Graham Gano	KR	20	Jordan Scarlett (R)
P	5	Michael Palardy	PR	19	Rashad Ross

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
WR	Chris Hogan	New England
DE	Bruce Irvin	Atlanta
C	Matt Paradis	Denver

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
LB	Thomas Davis	L.A. Chargers
WR	Devin Funchess	Indianapolis
OT	Matt Kalil	Houston
C	Ryan Kalil	Retired
DE	Julius Peppers	Retired

SCOUTING THE PANTHERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP CAROLINA "Anytime there is an ownership change, the coach and GM are on high alert, and that is the case in Charlotte. After a 6-2 start followed by a seven-game losing streak, Ron Rivera and Marty Hurney are on notice for 2019. ... Cam Newton had his best season as a passer in the transition to Norv Turner's offense. He hit a career-best 67.9 percent but still threw 13 interceptions in 14 starts. ... Christian McCaffrey looks exactly the same in the NFL as he did at Stanford — an extremely productive and versatile performer. ... Devin Funchess left in free agency, but they have faith that DJ Moore is going to emerge as a true No. 1 after a 55-catch rookie season. Curtis Samuel is a dynamic offensive threat and has made progress as a pro receiver. With Greg Olsen only starting nine games, rookie tight end Ian Thomas was a pleasant surprise with 36 receptions. ... Tackle Taylor Moton is their most underrated player, and they signed Matt Paradis to solidify the middle of the line. ... The pass rush was below average, so Bruce Irvin was added in free agency and Brian Burns drafted from Florida State. Mario Addison continues to perform at a high level and now has 42 sacks in his past five seasons. Donte Jackson and James Bradberry are two young corners on the rise. Jackson is learning to harness his raw speed and registered four interceptions as a rookie, while Bradberry is a big, durable corner who can match the power forward-type receivers in the league. ... With Newton, the Panthers are always capable of winning any game, but overall they are a middle-of-the-pack team with only marginal playoff hopes."



Panthers IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Brian Burns	DE	6-5	250	Florida State
2.	Greg Little	OT	6-5	310	Ole Miss
3.	Will Grier	QB	6-1	220	West Virginia
4.	Christian Miller	OLB	6-3	245	Alabama
5.	Jordan Scarlett	RB	5-11	210	Florida
6.	Dennis Daley	OT	6-6	325	South Carolina
7.	Terry Godwin	WR	5-11	185	Georgia

The Panthers hope their first two picks will help rush the quarterback and protect the quarterback, respectively. With the retirement of Julius Peppers, edge rusher Brian Burns has a shot at making a quick impact. He is rangy, fast and confident, but he played in college at as little as 235 pounds and must get stronger. Greg Little, once considered the top offensive line recruit in the nation, might be Carolina's Day 1 starter at left tackle if he has a good training camp, which would give him the very important job of protecting Cam Newton's blindside. Third-round pick Will Grier, on the other hand, is a long-term play and won't see the field in 2019 unless Newton gets hurt again. Christian Miller was used both inside and outside at Alabama. Jordan Scarlett averaged 5.9 yards per carry in his final season at Florida.

Outside the Huddle

LONDON CALLING The Panthers are one of the last NFL teams to receive and accept an invitation to play a regular-season game in London. Their turn comes Oct. 13, when they will face Tampa Bay. That game counts as a home contest for the Buccaneers, so Carolina will still have its normal slate of eight home games in Bank of America Stadium in 2019. The Panthers' season opener against the L.A. Rams Sept. 8 and the season finale against New Orleans Dec. 29 are both at home.

OH, BROTHER Brian Burns, the Panthers' first-round draft pick, saw his brother play for Carolina first. Stanley McClover, Burns' brother, was the Panthers' seventh-round draft choice in 2006. McClover stuck around the NFL for three years and had only one career NFL sack. But his time with the Panthers allowed his younger brother to meet players like Julius Peppers and DeAngelo Williams, which Burns said was "mind-blowing" after getting selected by the same team 13 years later.

#SHOPLOCAL The Panthers used a draft choice on a quarterback for the first time since they picked Cam Newton first overall in 2011 when they selected West Virginia's Will Grier in the third round. Grier grew up in the Charlotte area and played for small private school Davidson Day in high school. His family had Panthers season tickets in Section 229. Grier loved Steve Smith so much he owned six Smith No. 89 jerseys over the years, he says. He is one of three well-known Grier brothers — if you don't know who Nash and Hayes Grier are, they are Internet personalities, and your kids probably do know.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY The Panthers will be holding a number of events in 2019 to celebrate the team's 25th anniversary in the NFL and will likely add several new players into their Hall of Honor. Although the Panthers have made the Super Bowl twice in their first 24 seasons, their overall regular-season record is a testament to mediocrity: 190-193-1.

2,000-YARD MAN? Christian McCaffrey, the Panthers' do-it-all running back, set all sorts of franchise records last season while catching 107 passes and amassing 1,965 total yards from scrimmage. Both were franchise records, but McCaffrey admits to being a bit disappointed that he didn't reach 2,000 yards from scrimmage. That's one of his goals this year.

YACKETY YAC The Panthers were OK letting Devin Funchess seek employment elsewhere this offseason because they believe second-year man DJ Moore can become a legitimate No. 1 wide receiver in 2019. Moore's most impressive stat as a rookie was his yards after catch: He averaged 7.9 yards after catching the ball, which led the NFL in that category among qualified wide receivers.

TWO SUPERHEROES? Newton's Superman pose has been a celebratory end zone staple for the Panthers since he arrived in 2011. However, he may have some company in terms of imitating superheroes this fall. Burns, the Panthers' first-round draft pick, has loved Spider-Man for most of his life and says he may be striking a Spider-Man pose during his sack celebrations this season.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



★ Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.4

The Panthers lost fumbles on just 2.4 percent of their offensive drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.25

Carolina allowed 2.25 touchdowns per field goal, the third-highest rate in the NFL.

92

The Panthers committed only 92 offensive penalties, the second fewest in the NFL.



New Orleans SAINTS

NFC South Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner: Gayle Benson
President: Dennis Lauscha
Executive VP/General Manager: Mickey Loomis
VP of Football Administration: Khai Harley
Stadium: Mercedes-Benz Superdome (76,468)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.neworleanssaints.com
Tickets: 504-731-1700
Training Camp: New Orleans Saints Training Facility (Metairie, La.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean Payton
Record With Team: 118-74
Career Record: 118-74
Offensive Coordinator: Pete Carmichael
Defensive Coordinator: Dennis Allen
Special Teams Coordinator: Darren Rizzi
Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends: Dan Campbell
Senior Offensive Assistant/Wide Receivers: Curtis Johnson
Quarterbacks: Joe Lombardi
Running Backs: Joel Thomas
Offensive Line: Dan Roushar
Defensive Line: Ryan Nielsen
Linebackers: Mike Nolan
Secondary: Aaron Glenn

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 9	Houston (Mon.)	7:10	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (41)
Sept. 15	at L.A. Rams	4:25	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Sept. 22	at Seattle	4:25	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (61)	21.7 (11)
Sept. 29	Dallas	8:20	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)
Oct. 6	Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Oct. 13	at Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (41)
Oct. 20	at Chicago	4:25	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)
Oct. 27	Arizona	1:00	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
BYE							
Nov. 10	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Nov. 17	at Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Nov. 24	Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)
Nov. 28	at Atlanta (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Dec. 8	San Francisco	1:00	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Dec. 16	Indianapolis (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Dec. 22	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Dec. 29	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14)	23.9 (19)

It's been a decade since Drew Brees, Sean Payton and the New Orleans Saints went to and won the Super Bowl. The Saints came close to returning to the big game the previous two years only to see their seasons end in heartbreaking fashion. But there are ample reasons to believe the window is still open in New Orleans.

If the Saints aren't the most talented team in the NFL, they're in the conversation. Drew Brees continues to play at an elite level despite turning 40, and the core of the roster is in its prime. Eighteen of the 22 players who started in the NFC Championship Game are back, including eight of the 10 Saints who made the Pro Bowl the past two seasons.

OFFENSE The strength of the team will again be on offense, where the Saints have evolved into a balanced, ball-control attack that relies on Brees' field-generalship, a dominant offensive line and the playmaking skills of Michael Thomas and Alvin Kamara.

Payton's creative play calling and complex scheme also bedevil opponents. The Saints overwhelm defenses by employing a plethora of formations, pre-snap movements and personnel groupings, sometimes as many as 11 in a single game. Such a creative, complex and unconventional offense requires smart, talented players to run it, and the Saints have an abundance of them on offense. It all starts with Brees, who has shown no signs of slowing down. The 18-year-veteran is maniacal in his weekly preparation, and the Saints lean heavily on him to make pre-snap checks and adjustments.

Kamara has blossomed into one of the best all-around running backs in the league and will have an expanded role with backfield mate Mark Ingram now in Baltimore. Kamara is not the biggest, strongest or fastest back in the league, but he has few peers as a pure runner because of his excellent vision and athleticism. Backup Latavius Murray is not nearly as explosive as Ingram, but at 6'3", 230, he has the size and vision to be a weapon in short-yardage situations. Dwayne Washington rushed for 108 yards in the season finale in his only extended action and gives the Saints a reliable third option in the backfield.

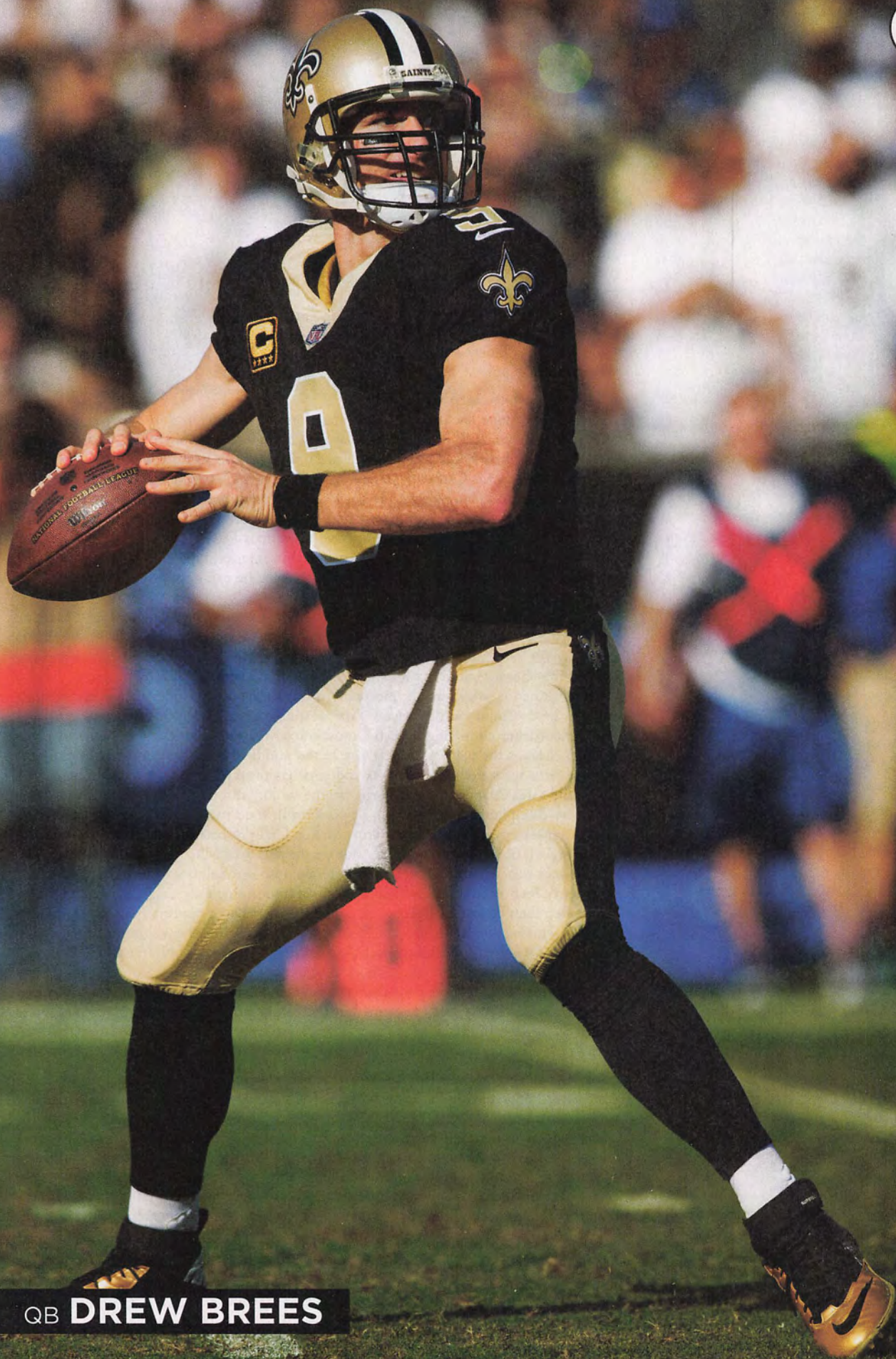
The running game is bolstered by Taysom Hill, a Swiss Army Knife weapon as a tight end, fullback, wide receiver and read-option quarterback in short-yardage situations. At 6'2", 221 with 4.4 speed, Hill is a powerful runner who is also a threat to burn teams in the passing game if they try to load the box to defend him.

Thomas has improved in each of his first three NFL seasons and blossomed into the Saints' first-ever All-Pro receiver a year ago. Thomas is not extraordinarily big or fast, but he plays with a fierce competitiveness, physically dominating defensive backs at the line of scrimmage and in coverage downfield. The No. 2 spot behind Thomas is up in the air. Veterans Ted Ginn Jr. and Cameron Meredith are the primary candidates. Meredith

is trying to regain the productive form he showed in Chicago before suffering a severe knee injury. It remains to be seen how much Ginn has left in the tank at 34. The Saints like young reserves Tre'Quan Smith, Keith Kirkwood and Austin Carr.

If defenses continue to focus on Kamara and Thomas, Jared Cook should become the X-factor in the middle of the field. The veteran tight end still has the speed to threaten downfield and is the most legitimate threat the Saints have had at the position since Jimmy Graham. Josh Hill is a reliable No. 2 option and has developed into an outstanding blocker.

As good as the Saints' perimeter game is, the strength of the



QB **DREW BREES**



2018 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept. 9	Tampa Bay	L	40-48
Sept. 16	Cleveland	W	21-18
Sept. 23	at Atlanta (ot)	W	43-37
Sept. 30	at N.Y. Giants	W	33-18
Oct. 8	Washington	W	43-19
Oct. 21	at Baltimore	W	24-23
Oct. 28	at Minnesota	W	30-20
Nov. 4	L.A. Rams	W	45-35
Nov. 11	at Cincinnati	W	51-14
Nov. 18	Philadelphia	W	48-7
Nov. 22	Atlanta	W	31-17
Nov. 29	at Dallas	L	10-13
Dec. 9	at Tampa Bay	W	28-14
Dec. 17	at Carolina	W	12-9
Dec. 23	Pittsburgh	W	31-28
Dec. 30	Carolina	L	14-33
Postseason			
Jan. 13	Philadelphia	W	20-14
Jan. 20	L.A. Rams (ot)	L	23-26

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING		ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Drew Brees		489	364	3,992	32	5
Teddy Bridgewater		23	14	118	1	1
RUSHING		ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Alvin Kamara		194	883	4.6	14	
Mark Ingram		138	645	4.7	6	
Taysom Hill		37	196	5.3	2	
Dwayne Washington		27	154	5.7	0	
RECEIVING		REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Michael Thomas		125	1,405	11.2	9	
Alvin Kamara		81	709	8.8	4	
TreQuan Smith		28	427	15.3	5	
Benjamin Watson		35	400	11.4	2	

KICKING: Wil Lutz, 28-30 FGs, 52-53 PAT, 136 points

TACKLES: Demario Davis, 110; Vonn Bell, 89

SACKS: Cameron Jordan, 12.0; Sheldon Rankins, 8.0

INTERCEPTIONS: four tied with 2

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	379.2	8	4
Rushing	126.6	7	4
Passing	252.6	12	7
Scoring	31.5	3	2
Third Down %	44.6	7	4
Punt Returns	6.5	T23	T8
Kick Returns	24.3	10	4

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	349.1	14	6
Rushing	80.2	2	2
Passing	268.9	29	15
Scoring	22.1	14	6
Interceptions	12	T18	T7
Sacks	49	T5	T3
Turnover Differential	+8	7	4

offense lies up front, where they boast elite talent across the line. Terron Armstead and Ryan Ramczyk form the best tackle tandem in the league. Both are smart, athletic and sound technicians. Guards Andrus Peat and Larry Warford are powerful road graders in the run game and anchor the interior for the 6'0" Brees to operate in the pocket. Free agent Nick Easton and rookie Erik McCoy will compete to replace the retired Max Unger at the starting center spot.

DEFENSE

Dennis Allen and staff have done an underrated job transforming the defense into a rock-solid unit after years of historically bad performances. The Saints aren't dominant in any one area but are solid on all three levels and play well as a unit, especially against the run.

Their best player is Cameron Jordan, who anchors the left end and is equally adept as a run defender and pass blocker. He has improved every year he's been in the league and rarely takes a snap off. The Saints have been searching for a bookend complement to Jordan for years and believe they've found one in Marcus Davenport. The 2018 first-round pick flashed play-making potential as a rookie, but injuries hampered his progress. He is already a sound run defender, and the Saints believe he can develop into a double-digit sack man with improved strength.

Defensive tackle Malcom Brown was signed in free agency to replace Tyeler Davison and serve as the designated run stuffer inside. Mario Edwards Jr. and David Onyemata will share the 3-technique position until Sheldon Rankins returns. Onyemata has intriguing potential because of his power and athleticism but remains a work in progress. The jury is out on Rankins, who was playing at a Pro Bowl level before suffering a season-ending Achilles tendon injury in the playoffs. The timetable for his return is unknown.

The linebacker corps might be the most improved unit on the team. Demario Davis leads the unit as the play-calling captain in the middle. He makes plays from sideline to sideline with his speed and instincts and also has proven to be an effective blitzer. A.J. Klein and Alex Anzalone flank Davis on the strong and weak sides, respectively. Both are smart, disciplined and rarely out of position in their run fits. Experienced depth is a question mark beyond Energizer-bunny backup Craig Robertson.

The expectations for the secondary ride on the ability of Marshon Lattimore and Marcus Williams to rebound from sophomore slumps. The Saints assign Lattimore to the opponent's best receiver and ask him to blanket him in single coverage. Typically, he wins more often than he loses. Eli Apple solidified the corner spot opposite Lattimore after arriving in a midseason trade with the Giants. The Saints believe he will improve after a full offseason of work with position coach Aaron Glenn. Patrick Robinson and P.J. Williams will compete for the starting nickel back spot in the slot.

The Saints could use more plays from the safeties. Marcus Williams' production dropped off precipitously in his second season, but the Saints remain high on his potential. Vonn Bell is at his best in attack mode as a down safety near the line of scrimmage. Fourth-round pick Chauncey Gardner-Johnson has the talent to play early in sub-packages.

SPECIALISTS

Punter Thomas Morstead and placekicker Wil Lutz are Pro Bowl-caliber players. Morstead has a powerful right leg and masterfully limits returns with hang time and directional kicks. He's the main reason the Saints annually rank among the league leaders in punt coverage. Lutz has developed into one of the most reliable legs in the league. He is accurate to 55 yards and can even hit from 60 in the climate-controlled Superdome. The return units continue to be a thorn in Payton's side. Veteran return specialist Marcus Sherels was signed in free agency to bolster the punt return game. Hill is a battering ram on kickoff returns but is more of a straight-line runner and isn't very shifty.

FINAL ANALYSIS

A lot of things went right for the Saints in 2018, and these things have a way of evening out from year to year, so it will be a surprise if they can duplicate their 13-3 record from last season. Regardless, they have no glaring weaknesses and are the clear team to beat in the NFC South. As long as Brees continues to play at an elite level, the Saints will be in the thick of the race for home-field advantage in the NFC.



MICHAEL THOMAS



2019 VETERAN SAINTS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
16 Barrett IV, J.T.	QB	6-2	225	1	Ohio State	FA-18	FA-NO-18
9 Brees, Drew	QB	6-0	209	18	Purdue	FA-LAC-06	D2-LAC-01
5 Bridgewater, Teddy	QB	6-2	215	5	Louisville	T-NYJ-18	D1-Min-14
7 Hill, Taysom	QB	6-2	221	2	BYU	W-GB-17	FA-GB-17
RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
35 Carter, Martez	RB	5-7	193	1	Grambling State	FA-19	FA-Was-18
41 Kamara, Alvin	RB	5-10	215	2	Tennessee	D3a-17	D3a-NO-17
42 Line, Zach	FB	6-1	233	6	SMU	FA-17	FA-Min-13
Murray, Latavius	RB	6-3	230	6	UCF	FA-Min-19	D6b-Oak-13
27 Washington, Dwayne	RB	6-1	223	3	Washington	FA-18	D7-Det-16
RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
85 Arnold, Dan	TE	6-6	220	2	Wisc.-Platteville	FA-17	FA-NO-17
80 Carr, Austin	WR	6-1	195	2	Northwestern	W-NE-17	FA-NE-17
15 Cobbs Jr., Simmie	WR	6-3	220	1	Indiana	FA-18	FA-Was-18
Cook, Jared	TE	6-5	254	10	South Carolina	FA-Oak-19	D3a-Ten-09
14 Dural, Travin	WR	6-2	207	1	LSU	FA-17	FA-NO-17
19 Ginn Jr., Ted	WR	5-11	180	12	Ohio State	FA-Car-17	D1-Mia-07
45 Griffin, Garrett	TE	6-4	240	2	Air Force	FA-16	FA-NO-16
89 Hill, Josh	TE	6-5	250	6	Idaho State	FA-13	FA-NO-13
18 Kirkwood, Keith	WR	6-3	210	1	Temple	FA-18	FA-NO-18
81 Meredith, Cameron	WR	6-3	207	4	Illinois State	FA-Chi-18	FA-Chi-16
10 Smith, Tre'Quan	WR	6-2	210	1	UCF	D3-18	D3-NO-18
13 Thomas, Michael	WR	6-3	212	3	Ohio State	D2a-16	D2a-NO-16
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
72 Armstead, Terron	T	6-5	304	6	Arkansas-Pine Bluff	D3a-13	D3a-NO-13
64 Clapp, Will	C/G	6-5	311	1	LSU	D7-18	D7-NO-18
Easton, Nick	G	6-3	303	4	Harvard	FA-Min-19	FA-Bal-15
77 Newton, Derek	T	6-6	315	7	Arkansas State	FA-18	D7-Hou-11
65 Ola, Michael	T	6-5	312	5	Hampton	FA-18	FA-Mia-14
75 Peat, Andrus	G/T	6-7	316	4	Stanford	D1a-15	D1a-NO-15
71 Ramczyk, Ryan	T	6-6	314	2	Wisconsin	D1b-17	D1b-NO-17
63 Tom, Cameron	C	6-4	300	2	Southern Miss	FA-17	FA-NO-17
67 Warford, Larry	G	6-3	317	6	Kentucky	FA-Det-17	D3-Det-13
79 Wozniak, Nate	OL	6-10	280	1	Minnesota	FA-18	FA-NO-18
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
Brown, Malcom	DT	6-2	320	4	Texas	FA-NE-19	D1-NE-15
92 Davenport, Marcus	DE	6-6	265	1	UTSA	D1-18	D1-NO-18
99 Edwards Jr., Mario	DL	6-3	280	4	Florida State	FA-NYG-19	D2-Oak-15
91 Hendrickson, Trey	DE	6-4	270	2	Florida Atlantic	D3c-17	D3c-NO-17
69 Jenkins, Alex	DE	6-6	270	1	Incarinate Word	FA-17	FA-NO-17
94 Jordan, Cameron	DE	6-4	287	8	California	D1a-11	D1a-NO-11
99 Laulile, Tomasi	DT	6-3	300	1	BYU	FA-18	FA-Ind-18
93 Onyemata, David	DT	6-4	300	3	Manitoba	D4-16	D4-NO-16
98 Rankins, Sheldon	DT	6-2	305	3	Louisville	D1-16	D1-NO-16
76 Stallworth, Taylor	DT	6-2	305	1	South Carolina	FA-18	FA-NO-18
LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
47 Anzalone, Alex	LB	6-3	241	2	Florida	D3b-17	D3b-NO-17
59 Biegel, Vince	LB	6-3	246	2	Wisconsin	FA-18	D4-GB-17
56 Davis, Demario	LB	6-2	248	7	Arkansas State	FA-NYJ-18	D3-NYJ-12
53 Klein, A.J.	LB	6-1	240	6	Iowa State	FA-Car-17	D5-Car-13
52 Robertson, Craig	LB	6-1	234	7	North Texas	FA-Cle-16	FA-Cle-11
44 Sankey, Darnell	LB	6-0	247	2	Sacramento State	FA-18	FA-Den-16
DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
25 Apple, Eli	CB	6-1	203	3	Ohio State	T-NYG-18	D1-NYG-16
31 Banjo, Chris	S	5-10	207	5	SMU	FA-16	FA-Jac-13
24 Bell, Vonn	S	5-11	205	3	Ohio State	D2b-16	D2b-NO-16
28 Campbell, Chris	DB	6-1	195	1	Penn State	FA-18	D6-Ari-18
20 Crawley, Ken	CB	6-1	180	3	Colorado	FA-16	FA-NO-16
48 Gray, J.T.	DB	6-0	202	1	Mississippi State	FA-18	FA-NO-18
34 Hardee, Justin	DB	6-1	200	2	Illinois	FA-17	FA-Hou-17
23 Lattimore, Marshon	CB	6-0	192	2	Ohio State	D1a-17	D1a-NO-17
33 Maulet, Arthur	CB	5-10	190	2	Memphis	FA-18	FA-NO-17
21 Robinson, Patrick	CB	5-11	191	9	Florida State	FA-Phi-18	D1-NO-10
Sherels, Marcus	CB	5-10	175	8	Minnesota	FA-Min-19	FA-Min-10
43 Williams, Marcus	S	6-1	195	2	Utah	D2-17	D2-NO-17
26 Williams, P.J.	CB	6-0	196	4	Florida State	D3b-15	D3b-NO-15
SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
3 Lutz, Wil	K	5-11	184	3	Georgia State	FA-16	FA-Bal-16
6 Morstead, Thomas	P	6-4	235	10	SMU	D5-09	D5-NO-09
49 Wood, Zach	LS	6-3	255	2	SMU	FA-17	FA-Dat-16

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	13	Michael Thomas	81	Cameron Meredith
WR	19	Ted Ginn Jr.	10	Tre'Quan Smith
LT	72	Terron Armstead	75	Andrus Peat
LG	75	Andrus Peat	65	Michael Ola
C		Nick Easton		Erik McCoy (R)
RG	67	Larry Warford	64	Will Clapp
RT	71	Ryan Ramczyk	75	Andrus Peat
TE		Jared Cook	89	Josh Hill
QB	9	Drew Brees	5	Teddy Bridgewater
RB	41	Alvin Kamara		Latavius Murray
FB	42	Zach Line		

DEFENSE

DE	94	Cameron Jordan	91	Trey Hendrickson
DT	93	David Onyemata	99	Mario Edwards Jr.
DT		Malcom Brown	76	Taylor Stallworth
DE	92	Marcus Davenport	91	Trey Hendrickson
WLB	47	Alex Anzalone		Kaden Elliss (R)
MLB	56	Demario Davis	52	Craig Robertson
SLB	53	A.J. Klein	59	Vince Biegel
CB	25	Eli Apple	21	Patrick Robinson
CB	23	Marshon Lattimore	26	P.J. Williams
SS	24	Vonn Bell	48	J.T. Gray
FS	43	Marcus Williams		C. Gardner-Johnson (R)

SPECIALISTS

K	3	Wil Lutz	KR	7	Taysom Hill
P	6	Thomas Morstead	PR		Marcus Sherels

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
DT	Malcom Brown	New England
TE	Jared Cook	Oakland
C	Nick Easton	Minnesota
DT	Mario Edwards Jr.	N.Y. Giants
RB	Latavius Murray	Minnesota
CB	Marcus Sherels	Minnesota

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
DT	Tyler Davison	Atlanta
RB	Mark Ingram	Baltimore
DE	Alex Okafor	Kansas City
C	Max Unger	Retired

SCOUTING THE SAINTS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP NEW ORLEANS "No team in recent memory has gone through the heartbreak of two devastating playoff losses more than the Saints. As an organization, they are trying to keep their Super Bowl window open with a crowbar in hopes that Drew Brees can deliver one more championship before he retires. However, the reality is that some of his downfield throws don't have quite as much pop, and his inability to escape is noticeable, too. Still, he hit 74.4 percent and knows how to protect the football as evidenced by his 32-to-5 TD-to-INT ratio. ... Michael Thomas was unstoppable. The scheme works beautifully, but Thomas is a master against zone coverages and is a hand-ful against man. They have big expectations for Tre'Quan Smith, who caught 28 passes and five touchdowns as a rookie. ... Alvin Kamara is a spectacular talent, and he will have a new backfield mate in Latavius Murray. Kamara averaged 17 touches per game; that number should increase to 20 in 2019. ... The offensive line was secure in surrendering only 20 sacks, but they lost center Max Unger to an unexpected retirement, so they drafted Erik McCoy in the second round. Meanwhile, Ryan Ramczyk might be the best right tackle in football. ... The expectation is that Sheldon Rankins will return from a torn Achilles. Cameron Jordan continues to be a tremendous player having posted another 12 sacks in what was his eighth NFL season. Look for Marcus Davenport to emerge as a double-digit sacker in his second year. ... It's not quite time for the Teddy Bridgewater era to begin, but 2019 could be the last realistic shot at a Super Bowl with Brees."



Saints IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Erik McCoy	OL	6-4	314	Texas A&M
4.	Chauncey Gardner-Johnson	FS	6-0	208	Florida
6.	Saquan Hampton	S	6-1	206	Rutgers
7.	Alizé Mack	TE	6-5	249	Notre Dame
7.	Kaden Elliss	LB	6-3	240	Idaho

Beyond Erik McCoy and Chauncey Gardner-Johnson, it would be a surprise if any of this class made an impact on the field this season. McCoy has all of the traits the Saints look for in their linemen: versatility, intelligence, toughness and production. He will compete immediately for a starting spot at center but has also played guard in his career and could easily slide to the position if needed. He should be an interior anchor for years to come. The Saints had Gardner-Johnson with a second-round grade and traded up for him in the fourth round. His versatility should allow him to see the field early in sub-packages, where defensive coordinator Dennis Allen likes to play multiple safeties for match-up purposes. Saquan Hampton also has positional flexibility at strong and free safety and is also a special teams standout. Alizé Mack and Kaden Elliss are developmental picks at positions of need for depth purposes.

B-

Outside the Huddle

FINE-TUNING THE OFFENSE The Saints offensive coaching staff spends time each week studying the top offenses around the league and shamelessly stealing play concepts to incorporate into their system. Sean Payton likes the element of surprise but is careful not to overload his players. The key, he says, is moderation. "We try not to come up with a lot of new inventions," Payton says. "Might be formation, might be personnel grouping. But I think there's a balance there of things that they know well. So none of us want to be at a karaoke bar at 1 a.m. and having to sing the words to a song we're clueless about."

DEUCE STAYS NO. 1 When Mark Ingram signed with the Baltimore Ravens in free agency, it preserved the career rushing title for Deuce McAllister. Ingram was 89 yards shy of McAllister's mark of 6,096 yards when he left. Ingram did manage to break McAllister's career record of 49 rushing touchdowns with 50. The four-game suspension Ingram served to start the 2018 season for violating the league's drug policy likely cost him the Saints' rushing title. McAllister, who serves as the color analyst for the club's radio network, might not have the title for much longer, though. Alvin Kamara has already rushed for 1,611 yards and 22 touchdowns in his first two seasons.

THE PAYTON RULE? Payton successfully led an impassioned charge to expand the league's instant replay system at the NFL owners meeting in Phoenix in March. Payton, along with the Pittsburgh Steelers' Mike Tomlin, was one of two head coaches on the powerful

eight-man competition committee that persuaded NFL owners to pass a rule that would essentially prevent egregious officiating mistakes like the one that likely cost the Saints a berth in the Super Bowl last season. Starting in the 2019 season, coaches and a replay official will be allowed to challenge called and non-called pass interference penalties like the one Nickell Robey-Coleman levied on Saints wide receiver Tommy Lee Lewis in the final minutes of the NFC Championship Game. The positive vote was a personal victory for Payton, who carried the torch for the Saints organization, the city of New Orleans and aggrieved Saints fans everywhere.

THE MOST INTERESTING MAN Austin Carr is not the best player on the Saints, but he might be the most interesting one. He was a philosophy major at Northwestern and earned Academic All-Big Ten honors. He's also an excellent pianist, singer and actor. This offseason Carr interned in U.S. Sen. Rand Paul's office in Washington, D.C. "He's going to be President of the United States one day," Payton says.

HOME MAKEOVER The Superdome is scheduled to undergo a \$450 million multi-phase renovation at the end of the 2019 season. State, team and stadium officials want to modernize the 45-year-old stadium and make it more fan-friendly. The plan is to add field-level bunker suites and wider concourses while upgrading the food service and widening the main entrances to the stadium. It will be the fifth major renovation to the stadium since it opened in 1975. The plan is to have the work completed before Super Bowl LVIII in 2024.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	7
2015	7
2016	7
2017	11 🏆
2018	13 🏆

🏆 Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

3.21

The Saints averaged 3.21 points per offensive drive, the second most in the NFL.

3:15

New Orleans averaged 3:15 of possession per offensive drive, the most in the NFL.

3.17

Opponents were forced to punt on just 31.7 percent of drives against the Saints, the fourth-lowest rate in the NFL.



Tampa Bay BUCCANEERS

NFC South Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Co-Chairmen: Bryan Glazer, Edward Glazer, Joel Glazer
General Manager: Jason Licht
Director of Player Personnel: John Spytek
Stadium: Raymond James Stadium (65,890)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.buccaneers.com
Tickets: 866-582-BUCS (2827)
Training Camp: One Buccaneer Place (Tampa, Fla.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Bruce Arians
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 49-30-1
Offensive Coordinator: Byron Leftwich
Defensive Coordinator: Todd Bowles
Special Teams Coordinator: Keith Armstrong
Assistant Head Coach/Run Game Coordinator: Harold Goodwin
Quarterbacks: Clyde Christensen
Running Backs: Todd McNair
Wide Receivers: Kevin Garver
Tight Ends: Rick Christophel
Offensive Line: Joe Gilbert
Defensive Line: Kacy Rodgers
Inside Linebackers: Mike Caldwell
Outside Linebackers: Larry Foote
Cornerbacks: Kevin Ross
Safeties: Nick Rapone

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	San Francisco	4:25	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Sept. 12	at Carolina (Thu.)	8:20	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
Sept. 22	N.Y. Giants	4:05	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Sept. 29	at L.A. Rams	4:05	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Oct. 6	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Oct. 13	vs. Carolina (London)	9:30am	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
BYE							
Oct. 27	at Tennessee	1:00	9-7	312.4 (25)	333.4 (8)	19.4 (27)	18.9 (3)
Nov. 3	at Seattle	4:05	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)
Nov. 10	Arizona	1:00	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Nov. 17	New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Nov. 24	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Dec. 1	at Jacksonville	1:00	5-11	302.0 (27)	311.4 (5)	15.3 (31)	19.8 (4t)
Dec. 8	Indianapolis	1:00	10-6	386.2 (7)	339.4 (11)	27.1 (5)	21.5 (10)
Dec. 15	at Detroit	1:00	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
Dec. 21/22	Houston	TBD	11-5	362.6 (15)	343.1 (12)	25.1 (11)	19.8 (4t)
Dec. 29	Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)

Bruce Arians first met Jameis Winston at Arians' son's football camp in Birmingham, Ala. "Jaboo' had been a legend since he was in ninth grade," Arians says of Winston, who was entering high school at the time. "Just a tremendous athlete. A very bright guy, but had a cannon for an arm."

Arians left an impression at that camp on Winston, too. He let the young quarterback wear the Super Bowl ring he had won with the Steelers. "That was one of those times when I was just like, 'Man, I want to get me one of those rings,'" Winston says.

Arians will get a chance to try to help Winston slip a Super Bowl ring on his finger once again. The 66-year-old came out of retirement to coach Winston and the Bucs, and he's re-hired most of his former assistant coaches thanks to his relationship with general manager Jason Licht. "The stars just kind of aligned," Arians says.

The biggest star is Winston, who is in the final year of a rookie contract that will pay him \$20.9 million. Arians, the self-proclaimed quarterback whisperer who has worked with Ben Roethlisberger, Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Carson Palmer, has said one thing loudly since taking the job: "This is Jameis' team."

OFFENSE Winston may have had his struggles — a three-game suspension and a three-game benching in 2018 — but the Bucs offense still was the strength of the team. Tampa Bay finished third overall in total offense (415.5 ypg) and had the league's most productive passing offense (320.3 ypg). With a surplus of targets, including receivers Mike Evans and Chris Godwin and tight ends Cameron Brate and O.J. Howard, Arians knew he didn't need an overhaul. "I've never walked into a situation with so many [talented] skill players on our roster," Arians says.

The Bucs did lose reliable slot receiver Adam Humphries to the Titans in free agency, and DeSean Jackson was traded to Philadelphia. But they added speed in Browns free agent Breshad Perriman and rookie Scotty Miller.

Arians points to two factors that could improve Winston's play: finding some balance with a running game and "not falling behind 20 points."

Arians is a bigger fan than most of running back Peyton Barber, who was 19th in the NFL in rushing with 871 yards and five touchdowns. "After watching him, we have a running back," Arians says. "And we have a big, strong, fast running back."

Aside from Barber, pickings are slim. Ronald Jones is coming off a horrific rookie year in which he only rushed 23 times for 44 yards. The Bucs need second-year running back Shaun Wilson to develop into a third down back.

The offensive line has some holes, particularly on the right side. Tampa Bay moved right guard Caleb Benenoch to right tackle to back up Demar Dotson, who is entering his 11th season. It's an area they didn't address in the draft.

Arians has never had a tight end combination as productive as Howard and Brate, who combined for 11 touchdown receptions. Had Howard stayed healthy, he might have made the Pro Bowl.

Evans, who has produced five straight 1,000-yard receiving seasons, is getting better. Arians predicts that Godwin could play every snap this season at slot and outside receiver.

Arians has a penchant for getting five players eligible as receivers into the passing game. That means that Winston will



WR **MIKE EVANS**



2018 RESULTS (5-11)

Sept. 9	at New Orleans	W	48-40
Sept. 16	Philadelphia	W	27-21
Sept. 24	Pittsburgh	L	27-30
Sept. 30	at Chicago	L	10-48
Oct. 14	at Atlanta	L	29-34
Oct. 21	Cleveland (ot)	W	26-23
Oct. 28	at Cincinnati	L	34-37
Nov. 4	at Carolina	L	28-42
Nov. 11	Washington	L	3-16
Nov. 18	at N.Y. Giants	L	35-38
Nov. 25	San Francisco	W	27-9
Dec. 2	Carolina	W	24-17
Dec. 9	New Orleans	L	14-28
Dec. 16	at Baltimore	L	12-20
Dec. 23	at Dallas	L	20-27
Dec. 30	Atlanta	L	32-34

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jameis Winston	378	244	2,992	19	14
Ryan Fitzpatrick	246	164	2,366	17	12
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Peyton Barber	234	871	3.7	5	
Jameis Winston	49	281	5.7	1	
Ryan Fitzpatrick	36	152	4.2	2	
Jacquizz Rodgers	33	106	3.2	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Mike Evans	86	1,524	17.7	8	
Chris Godwin	59	842	14.3	7	
Adam Humphries	76	816	10.7	5	
DeSean Jackson	41	774	18.9	4	

KICKING: Chandler Catanzaro, 11-15 FGs, 23-27 PAT, 56 points

TACKLES: Lavonte David, 120; Jordan Whitehead, 76

SACKS: Jason Pierre-Paul, 12.5; Carl Nassib, 6.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Andrew Adams, 4; five tied with 1

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	415.5	3	2
Rushing	95.2	29	14
Passing	320.3	1	1
Scoring	24.8	12	6
Third Down %	46.0	3	1
Punt Returns	6.3	T26	T11
Kick Returns	20.4	26	14

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	383.4	27	15
Rushing	123.9	24	14
Passing	259.4	26	13
Scoring	29.0	31	16
Interceptions	9	T26	T11
Sacks	38	T19	12
Turnover Differential	-18	31	15

have to get the football out of his hands quickly and hope tackle Donovan Smith, guard Ali Marpet and center Ryan Jensen can keep the pocket clean.

Arians is putting a lot of faith in 39-year-old coordinator Byron Leftwich, who will call plays this season. But who better to mentor Winston than a former NFL quarterback who has actually played in Arians' system?

DEFENSE Arians hired former Jets head coach Todd Bowles, who played for him at Temple, as defensive coordinator. In a move that may

seem a tad sacrilegious, the Bucs are scrapping the Tampa 2. Bowles will deploy an attacking 3-4 defense in hopes of improving a unit that allowed 29 points per game last season.

The transition could take some time. Jason Pierre-Paul led the team with 12.5 sacks last season after his trade from the Giants, but nobody is sure how he will adapt to playing outside linebacker or being asked to drop into coverage. And JPP's health could be an issue after being injured in a car accident in early May.

The Bucs are hoping for big things from their biggest player — defensive tackle Vita Vea. The first-round pick from Washington missed all of training camp and the first three games of the season after a calf injury. But he finished strong with three sacks and four quarterback hits in his final seven games.

The Bucs are hoping to get pressure off the edge from Carl Nassib, who had a breakout year with 6.5 sacks and 29 tackles after being claimed off waivers from the Browns. They also signed Broncos free agent Shaq Barrett and are hoping to resurrect the career of former second-round pick Noah Spence by moving him to outside linebacker.

The biggest addition is LSU linebacker Devin White, the No. 5 pick in the draft. The Bucs lost Kwon Alexander to the 49ers in free agency, and Bowles now has the quarterback of his defense for the next five years. There was hand-wringing in Tampa Bay when the Bucs went with White over Kentucky edge rusher Josh Allen. But as Arians has explained, Bowles utilizes a lot of blitzes to dial up pressure, especially from his linebackers.

Pressure will also be felt, and applied, by the Bucs defensive backs. Gone is the staid zone coverage. Bowles will play press man-to-man on outside receivers. The Bucs believe this will play into the strengths of cornerbacks Vernon Hargreaves and Carlton Davis. The team picked up the fifth-year club option of \$9 million for Hargreaves, who has played in only 10 games in the last two years due to injuries. For the second straight season, the Bucs invested three draft picks in fortifying the secondary. Central Michigan cornerback Sean Murphy-Bunting and Kentucky safety Mike Edwards will battle for starting spots.

SPECIALISTS One of the few free agent signings for the Bucs is 49ers punter Bradley Pinion, who owns a 43.7-yard career average and is one of the few punters who also excels at kicking off. This move was expected to help placekicker Cairo Santos, who went 9-of-12 in field goal tries in the final seven games with the Bucs. But that was before Licht did the unthinkable again and drafted another placekicker. Summoning memories of Roberto Aguayo, the Bucs' second-round pick in 2016 who flamed out after only one season, the team selected Utah's Matt Gay in the fifth round. Licht makes no apologies, calling it an important position. The return game took a hit with the departure of Humphries.

FINAL ANALYSIS Even though the Bucs haven't made the playoffs since 2007, Arians says this is a reload rather than a rebuild. Certainly, his track record of quick turnarounds is pretty remarkable. He won NFL Coach of the Year in 2012 after leading the Colts to a 9-3 record when he stepped in for head coach Chuck Pagano. At Arizona, Arians went from 10-6 to 11-5 to 13-3 and an NFC Championship Game appearance.

The schedule-makers didn't do the Bucs any favors. They go from Sept. 22 to Nov. 10 without a game at Raymond James Stadium and will fly more than 25,000 miles during a six-game stretch that includes games in London against the Panthers and at Seattle and the Los Angeles Rams. "Am I happy about it? Hell, no. I think it's ridiculous," Arians says.

A winning season for Arians would be a huge accomplishment. Maybe then he and Winston can focus on earning a Super Bowl ring.



JAMEIS WINSTON



2019 VETERAN

BUCCANEERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
11	Gabbert, Blaine	QB	6-4	235	8	Missouri	FA-Ten-19	01-Jac-11
4	Griffin, Ryan	QB	6-5	210	6	Tulane	W-NO-15	FA-NO-13
3	Winston, Jameis	QB	6-4	231	4	Florida State	D1-15	01-TB-15
RUNNING BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
25	Barber, Peyton	RB	5-11	225	3	Auburn	FA-16	FA-TB-16
27	Jones II, Ronald	RB	5-11	208	1	USC	D2a-18	D2a-TB-18
44	Ogunbowale, Dare	RB	5-11	205	1	Wisconsin	FA-18	FA-Hou-17
38	Wilson, Shaun	RB	5-9	185	1	Duke	FA-18	FA-TB-18
RECEIVERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
82	Auclair, Antony	TE	6-6	256	2	Laval	FA-17	FA-TB-17
83	Bailey II, Sergio	WR	6-0	186	1	Eastern Michigan	FA-18	FA-TB-18
84	Brate, Cameron	TE	6-5	245	4	Harvard	FA-15	FA-TB-14
15	Brent, K.J.	WR	6-4	190	1	Wake Forest	FA-18	FA-Oak-16
45	Cross, Alan	TE	6-1	235	3	Memphis	FA-16	FA-TB-16
86	Ernsberger, Donnie	TE	6-2	237	1	Western Michigan	FA-18	FA-TB-18
13	Evans, Mike	WR	6-5	231	5	Texas A&M	D1-14	01-TB-14
12	Godwin, Chris	WR	6-1	209	2	Penn State	D3a-17	D3a-TB-17
80	Howard, O.J.	TE	6-6	251	2	Alabama	D1-17	01-TB-17
88	Hudson, Tanner	TE	6-5	239	1	Southern Arkansas	FA-18	FA-TB-18
19	Perriman, Breshad	WR	6-2	211	4	UCF	FA-Cle-19	D1-Bal-15
17	Watson, Justin	WR	6-3	215	1	Pennsylvania	D5-18	05-TB-18
	Williams, Kerwynn	RB	5-8	198	5	Utah State	FA-Det-19	D7-Ind-13
85	Wilson, Bobo	WR	5-9	186	1	Florida State	FA-17	FA-TB-17
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
77	Benenoch, Caleb	OL	6-5	305	3	UCLA	D5-16	D5-TB-16
64	Boozer, Cole	OL	6-5	275	1	Temple	FA-18	FA-TB-18
65	Cappa, Alex	OL	6-6	305	1	Humboldt State	D3-18	D3-TB-18
69	Dotson, Demar	T	6-9	315	10	Southern Miss	FA-09	FA-TB-09
70	Holcomb, Ruben	G	6-4	309	1	Indianapolis	FA-18	FA-TB-18
66	Jensen, Ryan	C	6-4	319	5	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-Bal-18	D6-Bal-13
67	Liedtke, Michael	OL	6-3	305	1	Illinois State	FA-16	FA-Mia-15
74	Marpet, Ali	G	6-4	307	4	Hobart	D2b-15	D2b-TB-15
76	Smith, Donovan	T	6-6	338	4	Penn State	D2a-15	D2a-TB-15
62	Smith, Evan	OL	6-2	308	9	Idaho State	FA-GB-14	FA-GB-09
71	Watford, Earl	OL	6-3	300	5	James Madison	FA-Cle-19	D4-Ari-13
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
91	Allen, Beau	DT	6-3	327	5	Wisconsin	FA-Phi-18	D7-Phi-14
92	Gholston, William	DE	6-6	281	6	Michigan State	D4b-13	D4b-TB-13
72	Harris, Demone	DE	6-4	272	1	Buffalo	FA-18	FA-TB-18
95	Huguenin, Farrington	DE	6-4	268	1	Kentucky	FA-18	FA-Mia-16
78	Ledbetter, Jeremiah	DT	6-3	295	2	Arkansas	FA-18	D6-Det-17
93	McCoy, Gerald	DT	6-4	300	9	Oklahoma	D1-10	D1-TB-10
56	Nuñez-Roches, Rakeem	DT	6-2	307	4	Southern Miss	FA-18	D6-KC-15
79	O'Connor, Patrick	DE	6-4	270	1	Eastern Michigan	FA-17	D7-Det-17
50	Vea, Vita	DT	6-4	347	1	Washington	D1-18	D1-TB-18
LINEBACKERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
58	Barrett, Shaq	OLB	6-2	250	5	Colorado State	FA-Den-19	FA-Den-14
51	Beckwith, Kendall	LB	6-2	243	2	LSU	D3b-17	D3b-TB-17
59	Bond, Devante	LB	6-1	236	3	Oklahoma	D6a-16	D6a-TB-16
23	Bucannon, Deone	ILB	6-1	211	5	Washington State	FA-Ari-19	D1-Ari-14
48	Cichy, Jack	LB	6-2	238	1	Wisconsin	D6-18	D6-TB-18
54	David, Lavonte	ILB	6-1	233	7	Nebraska	D2-12	D2-TB-12
	Minter, Kevin	ILB	6-0	246	6	LSU	FA-18	D2-Ari-13
94	Nassib, Carl	OLB	6-7	275	3	Penn State	W-Cle-18	D3-Cle-16
52	Nelson, Corey	LB	6-1	226	5	Oklahoma	FA-19	D7-Den-14
46	Nzeocha, Eric	LB	6-3	218	1	Wyoming	FA-17	FA-TB-17
90	Pierre-Paul, Jason	OLB	6-5	275	9	USF	T-NYG-18	D1-NYG-10
43	Smith, Emmanuel	ILB	6-2	240	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Atl-18
57	Spence, Noah	OLB	6-2	251	3	Eastern Kentucky	D2a-16	D2a-TB-16
DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
24	Brice, Kentrell	S	5-11	200	3	Louisiana Tech	FA-GB-19	FA-GB-16
33	Davis III, Carlton	CB	6-1	206	1	Auburn	D2c-18	D2c-TB-18
21	Evans, Justin	S	6-0	199	2	Texas A&M	D2-17	D2-TB-17
28	Hargreaves III, Vernon	CB	5-10	204	3	Florida	D1-16	D1-TB-16
22	Harris, DeVante	CB	5-11	190	3	Texas A&M	W-NO-18	FA-NO-16
39	Johnson, Isaiah	S	6-0	209	1	South Carolina	FA-16	FA-TB-16
37	Rivers, David	CB	6-0	185	1	Youngstown State	FA-17	FA-GB-17
29	Smith, Ryan	CB	5-11	189	3	N. Carolina Central	D4-16	D4-TB-16
36	Stewart, M.J.	CB	5-11	200	1	North Carolina	D2b-18	D2b-TB-18
30	Stewart, Orion	S	6-1	205	1	Baylor	FA-19	FA-Den-17
31	Whitehead, Jordan	S	5-10	198	1	Pittsburgh	D4-18	D4-TB-18
SPECIALISTS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8	Pinion, Bradley	P	6-5	240	4	Clemson	FA-SF-19	D5-SF-15
5	Santos, Cairo	K	5-8	160	5	Tulane	FA-18	FA-KC-14
45	Triner, Zach	LS	6-2	247	1	Assumption	FA-19	FA-NYJ-17

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	13	Mike Evans	19	Breshad Perriman
WR	12	Chris Godwin	17	Justin Watson
LT	76	Donovan Smith	67	Michael Liedtke
LG	74	Ali Marpet	64	Cole Boozer
C	66	Ryan Jensen	62	Evan Smith
RG	71	Earl Watford	65	Alex Cappa
RT	69	Demar Dotson	77	Caleb Benenoch
TE	80	O.J. Howard	82	Antony Auclair
TE	84	Cameron Brate	88	Tanner Hudson
QB	3	Jameis Winston	11	Blaine Gabbert
RB	25	Peyton Barber	27	Ronald Jones

DEFENSE

DL	50	Vita Vea	98	Anthony Nelson (R)
NT	91	Beau Allen	78	Jeremiah Ledbetter
DE	92	William Gholston	79	Patrick O'Connor
OLB	90	Jason Pierre-Paul	57	Noah Spence
ILB	54	Lavonte David	23	Deone Bucannon
ILB	41	Devin White (R)		Kevin Minter
OLB	94	Carl Nassib	58	Shaq Barrett
CB	28	Vernon Hargreaves	26	Sean Murphy-Bunting (R)
CB	33	Carlton Davis	35	Jamel Dean (R)
S	21	Justin Evans	39	Isaiah Johnson
S	34	Mike Edwards (R)	31	Jordan Whitehead

SPECIALISTS

K	9	Matt Gay (R)	KR	38	Shaun Wilson
P	8	Bradley Pinion	PR	38	Shaun Wilson

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
OLB	Shaq Barrett	Denver
ILB	Deone Bucannon	Arizona
WR	Breshad Perriman	Cleveland
P	Bradley Pinion	San Francisco
G	Earl Watford	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
S	Andrew Adams	Detroit
LB	Kwon Alexander	San Francisco
DE	Vinny Curry	Philadelphia
QB	Ryan Fitzpatrick	Miami
WR	Adam Humphries	Tennessee
WR	DeSean Jackson	Philadelphia
LB	Adarius Taylor	Cleveland

SCOUTING THE BUCCANEERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP TAMPA BAY "In today's NFL, no GM gets to hire three head coaches, but that's exactly what Jason Licht has been given the opportunity to do. He chose close associate Bruce Arians, and now both are tasked with getting Jameis Winston to a franchise-level of play. In starting nine games, Winston threw 14 interceptions and is simply too careless with the football. ... The biggest area that can help the Bucs is in the turnover margin, where they finished 31st in the league at minus-18. ... Peyton Barber was functional last year (871 yards and five touchdowns), but Ronald Jones needs to get in the mix, too. ... O.J. Howard and Cameron Brate combined for 64 catches and 11 touchdowns, and, realistically, those numbers should climb in 2019. ... DeSean Jackson went back to Philadelphia, but he never got on the same page with Winston, so look for Chris Godwin's production to increase alongside Mike Evans, who is one of the best players in the entire league. ... Lavonte David is the definition of a modern-day linebacker in that he plays with tremendous instincts and speed. And first-round pick Devin White will plug in and play well. ... Jordan Whitehead was a nice fourth-round find for them last year, but they need tons of growth from Carlton Davis and M.J. Stewart. ... Jason Pierre-Paul lived up to expectations by playing 16 games and racking up 12.5 sacks, while Vinny Curry ended up being a major disappointment and a February release. ... DC Todd Bowles has some pieces to work with, yet his biggest job will be from the neck up with a group of players who lost a ton of confidence in 2018."



Buccaneers

IN THE DRAFT

B-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Devin White	LB	6-0	238	LSU
2.	Sean Murphy-Bunting	CB	6-1	181	Central Michigan
3.	Jamel Dean	CB	6-2	208	Auburn
3.	Mike Edwards	S	6-0	200	Kentucky
4.	Anthony Nelson	DE	6-7	271	Iowa
5.	Matt Gay	K	6-0	230	Utah
6.	Scotty Miller	WR	5-9	171	Bowling Green
7.	Terry Beckner Jr.	DT	6-4	295	Missouri

The Bucs focused on trying to improve a defense that was next to last in the NFL in points allowed. Devin White's leadership nearly equals what he brings on the field as a player at middle linebacker. He can blitz, cover running backs and has the speed to neutralize players such as the Saints' Alvin Kamara and the Panthers' Christian McCaffrey. Sean Murphy-Bunting and Jamel Dean will immediately compete at cornerback with Vernon Hargreaves and Carlton Davis. One of them is likely to end up as a slot defender in nickel packages. Look for Mike Edwards to make a big push for the starting safety job opposite Justin Evans. The biggest surprise is Matt Gay, especially after the failure of Roberto Aguayo, another Lou Groza Award winner. Scotty Miller could fill the slot role vacated by Adam Humphries. Terry Beckner Jr. is a sleeper pick at defensive tackle.

Outside the Huddle

OUTSIDE THE BOX HIRES Bucs coach Bruce Arians is a progressive thinker when it comes to assembling a coaching staff. In March, he hired Lori Locust as assistant defensive line coach and added Maral Javadifar as assistant strength and conditioning coach. The two are the first full-time female coaches in franchise history, and the Bucs are the first NFL team with two female coaches on staff. "I've never had a problem with a player," Locust says. "No one has ever treated me as anything but as a coach. Players are able to see through somebody who's not being authentic. ... I really don't operate differently than any other coach. I think there's a mutual respect. I certainly respect the players for all the work they put into their craft, and I honor that, and they just want to get better at the end of the day."

STAFF DIVERSITY The Bucs also are the only team with three minority coordinators on their staff — offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich, defensive coordinator Todd Bowles and special teams coordinator Keith Armstrong. All three are former players for Arians. Tampa Bay has a 29-member coaching staff, the largest in the NFL, including specialist coach Chris Boniol and speed and conditioning coach Roger Kingdom, a former Olympic champion sprinter in the 110-meter high hurdles. The Bucs also hired former NFL side judge Larry Rose to be their officiating consultant.

TWO-TIERED SYSTEM The Bucs will have split squad practices each day, dividing players up into what will

amount to a varsity and junior varsity. Arians believes that it will speed up the development of younger players who would normally get maybe a handful of snaps in a full-squad practice during the week.

MR. CLIPBOARD Quarterback Ryan Griffin, a Tulane product, is entering his seventh NFL season and fifth as a backup with the Bucs. But at 29, Griffin has never thrown a pass in a regular-season game. This year, he is battling former Tennessee Titans quarterback Blaine Gabbert for the No. 2 spot behind Winston.

HORSING AROUND Rookie linebacker Devin White began riding horses when he was only five years old. He now owns seven. Most of them are Tennessee Walkers. White's first horse, Daisy Mae, still is his favorite. He also has one named Ricky Bobby. White says he plans to bring all of his horses to Tampa Bay, eventually. Right now, he will keep them stabled in Louisiana until he learns the pace and the schedule of being an NFL player.

OUR BAD It's rare when the NFL admits a mistake, especially when it comes to the schedule. But the Bucs' seven-week hiatus from Raymond James Stadium was an obvious oversight. "If we had to do over, if we had a redo, I'd love to take another shot at that Tampa Bay schedule," says Mike North, the NFL's senior director of scheduling and broadcasting. "I'm not sure that's really fair to their fans. I'm hopeful that we didn't do something to the Buccaneers that they feel like was really unfair."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



NUMBERS TO KNOW

14.5

Interceptions ended a league-high 14.5 percent of Tampa's offensive drives.

14.5

The Bucs went three-and-out on only 14.5 percent of their offensive drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

2.48

Tampa allowed 2.48 points per defensive drive, the third most in the league.



Arizona CARDINALS

NFC West Forecast: 4

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: William V. Bidwill
President: Michael J. Bidwill
General Manager: Steve Keim
VP of Player Personnel: Terry McDonough
Stadium: State Farm Stadium (63,400)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.azcardinals.com
Tickets: 602-379-0102
Training Camp: State Farm Stadium (Glendale, Ariz.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Kliff Kingsbury
Record With Team: 0-0
Career Record: 0-0
Defensive Coordinator: Vance Joseph
Assistant Head Coach/Special Teams Coordinator: Jeff Rodgers
Pass Game Coordinator/Quarterbacks: Tom Clements
Running Backs: James Saxon
Wide Receivers: David Raii
Tight Ends: Steve Heiden
Offensive Line: Sean Kugler
Defensive Line: Chris Achuff
Linebackers: Bill Davis
Defensive Backs: Marcus Robertson
Cornerbacks: Greg Williams

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Detroit	4:25	6-10	327.3 (24)	335.0 (10)	20.3 (25)	22.5 (16t)
Sept. 15	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Sept. 22	Carolina	4:05	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
Sept. 29	Seattle	4:05	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)
Oct. 6	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Oct. 13	Atlanta	4:05	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Oct. 20	at N.Y. Giants	1:00	5-11	356.1 (17)	371.4 (24)	23.1 (16)	25.8 (23)
Oct. 27	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Oct. 31	San Francisco (Thu.)	8:20	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
Nov. 10	at Tampa Bay	1:00	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Nov. 17	at San Francisco	4:05	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
BYE							
Dec. 1	L.A. Rams	4:05	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Dec. 8	Pittsburgh	4:25	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)
Dec. 15	Cleveland	4:05	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Dec. 22	at Seattle	4:25	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)
Dec. 29	at L.A. Rams	4:25	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)

Following a miserable 3-13 season that tied for their worst record since relocating to Arizona in 1988, the Cardinals didn't waste any time in their attempt to turn the franchise around in 2019. They started by making a coaching change, purging Steve Wilks and the majority of his staff after just one season and looking outside the box for his replacement, hiring a young, innovative, offensive-minded college coach in Kliff Kingsbury to shake things up.

That's exactly what might happen, too. One of the benefits of finishing with the worst record in the league is owning the No. 1 overall pick in the draft, and the Cardinals used it on former Oklahoma quarterback Kyler Murray, a player Kingsbury had tried to recruit to Texas Tech and a potential superstar who could change the very landscape of the NFL with his dual-threat talents as both a pocket passer and a runner.

Murray's addition signaled the end for quarterback Josh Rosen just one year after he was drafted 10th overall, but that's what had to happen for the franchise to go all in on Murray, who promised at his introductory news conference: "You're getting a winner. Every time I touch the field, I'm going hard no matter [what] the scoreboard [says]."

With a defense already in place that features anchor-type talent in cornerback Patrick Peterson and edge rusher Chandler Jones as well as new faces such as veteran outside linebacker Terrell Suggs and middle linebacker Jordan Hicks, all eyes will be focused on what Kingsbury and Murray can do with the offense. Expect the Cardinals to run an insanely fast up-tempo style with an aerial attack featuring multiple receivers, including Larry Fitzgerald, Christian Kirk and a bevy of rookie draft picks led by speedster Andy Isabella and the 6'5" Hakeem Butler.

OFFENSE With Rosen getting dealt to the Dolphins in a draft-day trade, the 5'10" Murray now becomes the epicenter of Kingsbury's version of the Air Raid offense. It will be interesting to see how defenses react to Murray's speed and elusiveness as he operates out of the shotgun formation the majority of the time.

He should have a better offensive line than Rosen did. The Cardinals, who were forced to use 10 different starting combinations up front because of injuries, brought in two new starters in guard J.R. Sweezy, a free agent addition from the Seahawks, and veteran right tackle Marcus Gilbert, obtained in a trade with the Steelers. Left tackle D.J. Humphries, center A.Q. Shipley and guard Justin Pugh return from knee injuries, and there has been an influx of experience and youth through free agency and the draft.

After missing all but one game in 2017 (because of a wrist injury) and having a subpar season in '18, running back David Johnson is convinced he can return to his 2016 All-

Pro form, when he led the NFL in yards from scrimmage (2,118) and total touchdowns (20). The goal, he maintains, is still to rush for 1,000 or more yards and finish with 1,000 or more receiving yards. Look for Johnson, one of the best receiving threats in any NFL backfield, to get 25-30 touches per game and line up frequently as both a slot receiver and a wide receiver. Johnson welcomes the thought of running out of shotgun sets. "I actually love that," he says. "I did that in college. That's all we did in college is that gun-read option-type thing. I think it really opens up more space for me and makes me able to read the defense a little bit more besides getting the ball from under center."



WR **LARRY FITZGERALD**



2018 RESULTS (3-13)

Sept. 9	Washington	L	6-24
Sept. 16	at L.A. Rams	L	0-34
Sept. 23	Chicago	L	14-16
Sept. 30	Seattle	L	17-20
Oct. 7	at San Francisco	W	28-18
Oct. 14	at Minnesota	L	17-27
Oct. 18	Denver	L	10-45
Oct. 28	San Francisco	W	18-15
Nov. 11	at Kansas City	L	14-26
Nov. 18	Oakland	L	21-23
Nov. 25	at L.A. Chargers	L	10-45
Dec. 2	at Green Bay	W	20-17
Dec. 9	Detroit	L	3-17
Dec. 16	at Atlanta	L	14-40
Dec. 23	L.A. Rams	L	9-31
Dec. 30	at Seattle	L	24-27

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Josh Rosen	393	217	2,278	11	14
Sam Bradford	80	50	400	2	4
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
David Johnson	258	940	3.6	7	
Chase Edmonds	60	208	3.5	2	
Josh Rosen	23	138	6.0	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Larry Fitzgerald	69	734	10.6	6	
Christian Kirk	43	590	13.7	3	
David Johnson	50	446	8.9	3	
Ricky Seals-Jones	34	343	10.1	1	
Trent Sherfield	19	210	11.1	1	

KICKING: Phil Dawson, 5-8 FGs, 15-15 PAT, 30 points

TACKLES: Antoine Bethea, 121; Budda Baker, 102

SACKS: Chandler Jones, 13.0; two tied with 4.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Tre Boston, 3; Patrick Peterson, 2

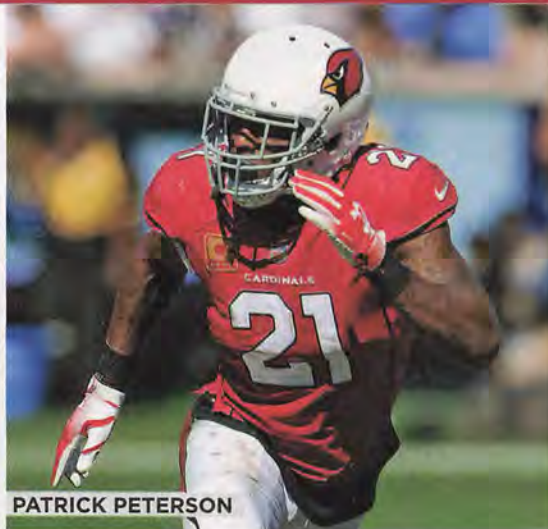
2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	241.6	32	16
Rushing	83.9	32	16
Passing	157.7	32	16
Scoring	14.1	32	16
Third Down %	29.1	32	16
Punt Returns	8.2	16	4
Kick Returns	21.4	T22	T12

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	358.8	20	12
Rushing	154.9	32	16
Passing	203.9	4	2
Scoring	26.6	26	14
Interceptions	7	T29	T13
Sacks	49	T5	T3
Turnover Differential	-12	T29	14

Though he will be 36 when the season starts, Fitzgerald still has plenty of game — he had his three most productive (by number of receptions) NFL seasons from 2015-17 — and he can help mentor a young stable of receivers that includes a third rookie in KeeSean Johnson as well as Bears castoff Kevin White, the former first-round pick who has battled injuries since joining the league.

Keep an eye on the tight end position, where veteran newcomer Charles Clay could have a career revival in this system, and holdover Ricky Seals-Jones, a natural pass catcher, could thrive. The team also added a veteran blocker in Maxx Williams and drafted UCLA's Caleb Wilson, who led all FBS tight ends in receiving yards.



PATRICK PETERSON

DEFENSE Upon hiring former Broncos head coach Vance Joseph as their new defensive coordinator, the Cardinals switched back to a 3-4 base, a system they used to average a top-six defensive ranking from 2014 through 2017.

It starts in the back end, where Peterson is still in his prime and is finally getting some real help with the additions of athletic playmaker Robert Alford and rookie Byron Murphy. Alford expects to see heavy action as most teams tend to shy away from throwing to Peterson's side of the field. Murphy, a local product from Scottsdale by way of the University of Washington, figures to excel as the team's nickel corner right off the bat.

In starting safeties Budda Baker and D.J. Swearinger, Arizona has a pair of explosive playmakers who bring a ton of spark. The depth in the secondary is much better overall with additions such as veteran corner Tramaine Brock Sr., the versatile Josh Shaw and rookie safety Deionte Thompson, the former Alabama standout who fell to the Cardinals in the fifth round.

If the back end does its job, Jones, the NFL's sacks leader since 2016, could be in the hunt for a 20-sack season. He'll be flanked by the ageless Suggs, the league's active career sacks leader who despite turning 37 in October still has managed to average 9.6 sacks over the past five full seasons. The defensive line remains stout with the venerable Corey Peters and the always-available Rodney Gunter, in addition to new defensive end Darius Philon (from the Chargers), end/outside linebacker Brooks Reed (from the Falcons) and rookie Zach Allen, who can line up just about anywhere and is expected get plenty of action.

In the middle is where the Cardinals' defense will either sink or swim. New inside linebacker Jordan Hicks (formerly of the Eagles) has to stay healthy and be productive after signing a four-year deal worth \$36 million. Third-year pro Haason Reddick, the team's first-round pick out of Temple in 2017, must prove he can thrive in an unfamiliar role.

SPECIALISTS About the only dependable thing here for the past two seasons has been veteran punter Andy Lee, who after setting a franchise single-season record with a 47.3-yard punting average in 2017 broke his own record last season with an NFL-high 48.6-yard average a year ago. The 37-year-old is under contract for two more seasons.

The Cardinals can't be exactly sure what they have at placekicker. Zane Gonzalez returns after taking over for the injured Phil Dawson, but Gonzalez is only 10-of-18 from 40 yards and beyond in his two years in the NFL. He likely will face some competition in training camp.

Expect Kirk, the Cardinals' crafty young receiver, to handle most of the punt returns with T.J. Logan and possibly Isabella or a surprise pick sharing the role as kick returner.

FINAL ANALYSIS Normally, a first-year head coach with no previous NFL coaching experience would be afforded the courtesy of a honeymoon period. Not so with Kingsbury, who will be on something of a hot seat right away upon replacing a one-and-done coach in Wilks. Expectations are soaring in Arizona because of Kingsbury and Murray, his tied-to-the-hip flashy quarterback, and if they can't return the Cardinals to at least seven or eight wins, it will be a disappointment.

GM Steve Keim's job is on the line. The talent all seems to be in place, but another ugly performance could result in some serious changes and set the franchise back years.



2019 VETERAN CARDINALS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
7 Hundley, Brett	QB	6-3	226	4	UCLA	FA-Sea-19	D5-Gb-15
6 Kanoff, Charles	QB	6-4	219	1	Princeton	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
29 Edmonds, Chase	RB	5-9	205	1	Fordham	D4-18	D4-Ari-18
37 Foster, D.J.	RB	6-0	195	3	Arizona State	FA-17	FA-NE-16
31 Johnson, David	RB	6-1	224	4	Northern Iowa	D3-15	D3-Ari-15
22 Logan, T.J.	RB	5-10	195	2	North Carolina	D5b-17	D5b-Ari-17
34 Wilds, Brandon	RB	6-0	220	2	South Carolina	FA-18	FA-Atl-16
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
14 Byrd, Damiere	WR	5-9	180	3	South Carolina	FA-Car-19	FA-Car-15
85 Clay, Charles	TE	6-3	255	8	Tulsa	FA-Buf-19	D7-Mia-11
12 Cooper, Pharoh	WR	5-11	208	3	South Carolina	W-LAR-18	D4-LAR-16
81 Daniels, Darrell	TE	6-3	246	2	Washington	W-Sea-18	FA-Ind-17
15 Dupre, Malachi	WR	6-2	196	1	LSU	FA-18	D7-Gb-17
11 Fitzgerald, Larry	WR	6-3	218	15	Pittsburgh	D1-04	D1-Ari-04
85 Holmes, Gabe	TE	6-5	255	1	Purdue	FA-18	FA-Oak-15
13 Kirk, Christian	WR	5-11	200	1	Texas A&M	D2-18	D2-Ari-18
86 Seals-Jones, Ricky	TE	6-5	243	2	Texas A&M	FA-17	FA-Ari-17
16 Sherfield, Trent	WR	6-1	205	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
17 Toltiver, Jalen	WR	6-3	210	1	Arkansas-Monticello	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
18 White, Kevin	WR	6-3	216	4	West Virginia	FA-Chi-19	D1-Chi-15
10 Williams, Chad	WR	6-1	204	2	Grambling	D3-17	D3-Ari-17
Williams, Maxx	TE	6-4	252	4	Minnesota	FA-Bal-19	D2-Bal-15
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
64 Cole, Mason	OL	6-5	307	1	Michigan	D3-18	D3-Ari-18
79 Cunningham, Corey	OL	6-6	311	1	Cincinnati	D7-18	D7-Ari-18
71 Evans, Justin	OL	6-5	310	1	South Carolina St.	FA-18	FA-Bal-18
73 Garcia, Max	OL	6-4	309	4	Florida	FA-Den-19	D4-Den-15
76 Gilbert, Marcus	OL	6-6	330	8	Florida	T-Pit-19	D2-Pit-11
75 Golditch, Zack	OL	6-5	295	1	Colorado State	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
78 Gossett, Colby	OL	6-5	311	1	Appalachian State	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
69 Holden, Will	OL	6-7	312	2	Vanderbilt	D5a-17	D5a-Ari-17
66 House, Will	OL	6-3	314	1	Southern Nazarene	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
74 Humphries, D.J.	OL	6-5	307	4	Florida	D1-15	D1-Ari-15
78 Lauderdale, Andrew	OL	6-6	291	1	New Hampshire	FA-19	FA-NO-17
63 Odhiambo, Rees	OL	6-4	315	3	Boise State	FA-18	D3-Sea-16
67 Pugh, Justin	OL	6-5	311	6	Syracuse	FA-NYG-18	D1-NYG-13
61 Shelton, Coleman	OL	6-4	299	1	Washington	FA-18	FA-SF-18
53 Shipley, A.O.	OL	6-1	307	7	Penn State	FA-15	D7-Pit-09
64 Sweezy, J.R.	OL	6-5	310	7	NC State	FA-Sea-19	D7a-Sea-12
68 Vujnovich, Jeremy	OL	6-5	300	3	Louisiana College	W-Ind-18	FA-Gb-14
72 Weiss, Brant	OL	6-6	297	1	Toledo	FA-19	FA-Ari-18
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
95 Gunter, Rodney	DT	6-5	305	4	Delaware State	D4-15	D4-Ari-15
94 Malveaux, Cameron	DE	6-5	265	2	Houston	FA-18	FA-Mia-17
90 Nkemdiche, Robert	DT	6-4	296	3	Ole Miss	D1-16	D1-Ari-16
98 Peters, Corey	DT	6-3	305	9	Kentucky	FA-Atl-15	D3a-Atl-10
93 Philon, Darius	DE	6-1	300	4	Arkansas	FA-LAC-19	D6-LAC-15
65 Tasini, Pasoni	DT	6-3	307	1	Utah	FA-18	FA-Ari-17
96 Valentine, Vincent	DT	6-3	315	3	Nebraska	FA-18	D3-NE-16
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
52 Cash, Jeremy	LB	6-0	230	3	Duke	W-Cle-18	FA-Car-16
54 Dora, Vontarrius	LB	6-4	256	1	Louisiana Tech	FA-18	FA-Den-16
92 Gardeck, Dennis	LB	6-0	242	1	Sioux Falls	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
58 Hicks, Jordan	LB	6-1	236	4	Texas	FA-Phi-19	D3-Phi-15
55 Jones, Chandler	LB	6-5	255	7	Syracuse	T-NE-16	D1-NE-12
43 Reddick, Haason	LB	6-1	235	2	Temple	D1-17	D1-Ari-17
50 Reed, Brooks	LB	6-3	254	8	Arizona	FA-Atl-19	D2a-Hou-11
45 Robertson, Pete	LB	6-2	243	1	Texas Tech	FA-18	FA-Sea-16
56 Suggs, Terrell	LB	6-3	265	16	Arizona State	FA-Bal-19	D1a-Bal-03
47 Turner, Zeke	LB	6-2	214	1	Washington	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
48 Vallejo, Tanner	LB	6-1	230	2	Boise State	W-Cle-19	D6-Buf-17
59 Walker, Joe	LB	6-2	236	3	Oregon	FA-18	D7-Phi-16
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
20 Alford, Robert	CB	5-10	186	6	SE Louisiana	FA-Atl-19	D2-Atl-13
38 Amerson, David	CB	6-1	205	6	NC State	FA-18	D2-Was-13
32 Baker, Budda	S	5-10	195	2	Washington	D2-17	D2-Ari-17
28 Brock Sr., Tramaine	CB	6-0	188	9	Belhaven	FA-Den-19	FA-SF-10
30 Ford, Rudy	S	6-0	204	2	Auburn	D6-17	D6-Ari-17
25 Jones, Chris	CB	6-0	200	1	Nebraska	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
23 Moxey, Jonathan	CB	5-10	188	1	Boise State	FA-18	FA-TB-17
29 Nichols, Deatrick	CB	5-10	189	1	South Florida	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
42 Owens, Jonathan	S	5-11	210	1	Missouri Western	FA-18	FA-Ari-18
21 Peterson, Patrick	CB	6-1	203	8	LSU	D1-11	D1-Ari-11
27 Shaw, Josh	DB	6-1	200	4	USC	FA-TB-19	D4-Cin-15
36 Swearingner, D.J.	S	5-10	205	6	South Carolina	W-Was-18	D2-Hou-13
26 Williams, Brandon	CB	6-0	200	3	Texas A&M	D3-16	D3-Ari-16
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
46 Brewer, Aaron	LS	6-5	232	7	San Diego State	FA-16	FA-Den-12
5 Gonzalez, Zane	K	6-0	202	2	Arizona State	FA-18	D7-Cle-17
2 Lee, Andy	P	6-1	185	15	Pittsburgh	FA-17	D6-SF-04
2 Winslow, Ryan	P	6-5	217	1	Pittsburgh	FA-19	FA-Chi-18

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	11	Larry Fitzgerald	Hakeem Butler (R)
WR	13	Christian Kirk	KeeSean Johnson (R)
WR	5	Andy Isabella (R)	18 Kevin White
LT	74	D.J. Humphries	69 Will Holden
LG	62	Justin Pugh	73 Max Garcia
C	52	Mason Cole	53 A.Q. Shipley
RG	64	J.R. Sweezy	68 Jeremy Vujnovich
RT	76	Marcus Gilbert	79 Corey Cunningham
TE	85	Charles Clay	86 Ricky Seals-Jones
QB	1	Kyler Murray (R)	7 Brett Hundley
RB	31	David Johnson	29 Chase Edmonds

DEFENSE

DT		Zach Allen (R)	90 Robert Nkemdiche
DT	98	Corey Peters	95 Rodney Gunter
DE	93	Darius Philon	94 Cameron Malveaux
OLB	55	Chandler Jones	54 Vontarrius Dora
SLB	58	Jordan Hicks	47 Zeke Turner
WLB	43	Haason Reddick	48 Tanner Vallejo
OLB	56	Terrell Suggs	50 Brooks Reed
CB	21	Patrick Peterson	28 Tramaine Brock Sr.
CB	20	Robert Alford	Byron Murphy (R)
FS	32	Budda Baker	Deionte Thompson (R)
SS	36	D.J. Swearingner	30 Rudy Ford

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Zane Gonzalez	KR	22	T.J. Logan
P	4	Andy Lee	PR	13	Christian Kirk

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
CB	Robert Alford	Atlanta
CB	Tramaine Brock Sr.	Denver
TE	Charles Clay	Buffalo
OT	Marcus Gilbert	Pittsburgh
DE	Jordan Hicks	Philadelphia
LB	Darius Philon	L.A. Chargers
LB	Brooks Reed	Atlanta
LB	Terrell Suggs	Baltimore
OG	J.R. Sweezy	Seattle

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
S	Antoine Bethea	N.Y. Giants
S	Tre Boston	Free Agent
LB	Deone Bucannon	Tampa Bay
LB	Josh Byrnes	Free Agent
LB	Marcus Golden	N.Y. Giants
TE	Jermaine Gresham	Free Agent
OG	Mike Iupati	Seattle
QB	Josh Rosen	Miami

SCOUTING THE CARDINALS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP ARIZONA "After a disastrous 2018 season, the Cardinals are starting over at coach and quarterback, with GM Steve Keim getting one more chance to try and fix this franchise that came off the rails last year. ... In less than a month, it was obvious Steve Wilks was not the answer, and when Josh Rosen was forced into the lineup he was sacked 45 times in 13 starts. ... Kliff Kingsbury was an outside-the-box choice because he had a losing record at Texas Tech and never showed the capacity to field any kind of representative defense. He is going to need lots of help in adjusting to the NFL. ... Arizona hitched its wagon to Kyler Murray with the top draft choice, and while he was sensational in his one season as a starter at Oklahoma, there are more questions than answers when it comes to his long-term viability as a pro QB. Still, when your offense was ranked 32nd in five different categories, it's worth the shot to reset the table. ... They traded for right tackle Marcus Gilbert and signed guard J.R. Sweezy to bolster the offensive line. ... A healthy David Johnson will be better in 2019, and Chase Edmonds flashed open-space ability as a rookie. ... Christian Kirk should thrive in Kingsbury's spread system, while Larry Fitzgerald decided to delay his planned retirement by one more year. ... Keim added some noteworthy defensive players in free agency, but Chandler Jones, Haason Reddick, Budda Baker and Patrick Peterson have to take ownership of the team. ... This rookie coach and quarterback sequel will be better than the Wilks/Rosen version, but they will be fortunate to reach six wins."



Cardinals IN THE DRAFT

A-

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Kyler Murray	QB	5-10	207	Oklahoma
2.	Byron Murphy	CB	5-11	190	Washington
2.	Andy Isabella	WR	5-9	188	Massachusetts
3.	Zach Allen	DE	6-4	281	Boston College
4.	Hakeem Butler	WR	6-5	227	Iowa State
5.	Deionte Thompson	S	6-1	195	Alabama
6.	KeeSean Johnson	WR	6-2	201	Fresno State
6.	Lamont Gaillard	C/G	6-3	305	Georgia
7.	Joshua Miles	OT	6-5	314	Morgan State
7.	Michael Dogbe	DE	6-3	284	Temple
	Caleb Wilson	TE	6-4	240	UCLA

On paper, it's shaping up to be the Cardinals' best overall draft since 2004 when they landed Larry Fitzgerald, Karlos Dansby and Darnell Dockett. If Kyler Murray meets or exceeds expectations, 2019 could be even better. Byron Murphy was a steal, and in Andy Isabella, Hakeem Butler and KeeSean Johnson, Arizona provided Murray with three potential long-term targets who are capable of turning heads across the league. Zach Allen and Deionte Thompson were huge gets and should make an immediate impact. Lamont Gaillard and Joshua Miles could help keep the offensive line formidable for years.

Outside the Huddle

WINNING AT LIFE In addition to announcing he was returning to the Cardinals for a 16th season, wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald made even more national news in the offseason when he hit a hole-in-one while playing golf with Barack Obama at Seminole Golf Club near Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. It was such a big moment that the golf club's president, Jimmy Dunne, who was playing in the foursome, waived the course rules against cell phone use on the course so Fitzgerald could share the news of his ace on the 13th hole. "He's a huge golfer," coach Kliff Kingsbury says. "I've never seen anybody win at life like he does. He's got it figured out."

LEANER AND MEANER Chandler Jones thrived in the 3-4 defense when the Cardinals last played it in 2017, leading the NFL in sacks (17) and tackles for a loss (28), and to ready himself to try to duplicate or even better those numbers, he decided to cut weight. He dropped 25 pounds and says he's never felt better. "For sure," he says. "I feel a lot faster, a lot more explosive. Last year, as you guys know, I started off at 280. I'm about 255 now. I'm trying to maintain that, but I always put on fat going into training camp. This year, I'm trying to get more cut up."

T-SIZZLE OR T-FIZZLE? Everyone will be curious to see what Terrell Suggs can do as he enters his 17th NFL season. The NFL's active leader in sacks with 132.5 (tied for 13th on the all-time list) is just as curious. "I guess we're going to find out," he said when asked how much he has left. "I'm excited to find out, so let's see. Let's see how much we got left. We ain't gonna cap it."

WINNING WAYS Dating back to his time at Allen (Texas) High School, Kyler Murray has a 57-3 record as a starting quarterback. That includes a 43-0 mark in high school. "I'm a winner," Murray says, adding of the Cardinals' record last season, "I mean 3-13, obviously, is unacceptable. I don't know what I would do myself if I ever had a season where I was 3-13. That's not the plan. I don't intend on losing much."

HOMECOMING PARTY By selecting Washington cornerback Byron Murphy with the first pick in the second round of the draft, the Cardinals added their third player on the roster who prepped at nearby Scottsdale Saguaro High School. "Yes, sir. Sag U!" Murphy says proudly. "Going to school with [wide receiver] Christian Kirk and also a former player with [running back] D.J. Foster. That's amazing. I get to come here and play with those guys."

ABOUT THAT HONOR Caleb Wilson embraces his role as the last overall pick in the draft and the celebrity status that comes with it. Like every "Mr. Irrelevant" before him, it's a chance to be honored during a summer parade and celebration in Newport Beach, Calif. "It's a lifelong dream as a kid to get picked in the NFL Draft, so just to see my name pop up on the screen and that happiness on my family's face, I just embraced it all," Wilson says. "It's an honor, to be honest. I heard about [the parade]. I haven't seen all the details, but I heard it's in Newport, which isn't too far from UCLA. I saw them talk about it on TV. I'll definitely have to do some more research on it before I go out there."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



★ Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

1.12

The Cardinals averaged a league-low 1.12 points per offensive drive.

-5.33

Arizona had the largest average deficit per defensive drive, at -5.33 points.

29.8

The Cards went three-and-out on 29.8 percent of their offensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL.



Los Angeles RAMS

NFC West Forecast: 1

THE ORGANIZATION

Owner/Chairman: E. Stanley Kroenke
Executive VP of Football Operations/COO: Kevin Demoff
General Manager: Les Snead
Director of Pro Personnel: Ray Agnew
Stadium: Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum (93,605)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.therams.com
Tickets: 818-338-0011
Training Camp: University of California, Irvine (Irvine, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Sean McVay
Record With Team: 24-8
Career Record: 24-8
Assistant Head Coach/Linebackers/
Front Coordinator: Joe Barry
Defensive Coordinator: Wade Phillips
Special Teams Coordinator: John Fassel
Run Game Coordinator: Aaron Kromer
Pass Game Coordinator/QBs: Shane Waldron
Running Backs: Skip Peete
Wide Receivers: Eric Yarber
Tight Ends: Wes Phillips
Defensive Line: Eric Henderson
Outside Linebackers: Chris Shula
Cornerbacks: Aubrey Pleasant
Safeties: Ejiro Evero

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS						
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense		
Sept. 8	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)		
Sept. 15	New Orleans	4:25	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)		
Sept. 22	at Cleveland	8:20	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)		
Sept. 29	Tampa Bay	4:05	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)		
Oct. 3	at Seattle (Thu.)	8:20	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)		
Oct. 13	San Francisco	4:05	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)		
Oct. 20	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)		
Oct. 27	vs. Cincinnati (London)	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)		
BYE									
Nov. 10	at Pittsburgh	4:25	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)		
Nov. 17	Chicago	8:20	12-4	343.9 (21)	299.7 (3)	26.3 (9)	17.7 (1)		
Nov. 25	Baltimore (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)		
Dec. 1	at Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)		
Dec. 8	Seattle	8:20	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)		
Dec. 15	at Dallas	4:25	10-6	343.8 (22)	329.3 (7)	21.2 (22)	20.3 (6)		
Dec. 21/22	at San Francisco	TBD	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)		
Dec. 29	Arizona	4:25	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)		

In a matter of just two seasons, he'd taken one of the league's worst franchises to the brink of a Super Bowl, but on the biggest stage, Sean McVay had been outcoached, and his Rams had been outplayed. The sting of that painful realization would linger months after their 13-3 loss to the Patriots in Atlanta.

But the youngest coach ever to lead a team to the Super Bowl understands that dwelling on that devastating defeat could doom the Rams. It's no coincidence that the game's losers so rarely return right away. Last year's Patriots are the only team in the past 25 seasons to get back to the biggest stage following a loss.

"If you can't handle getting gut-punched and responding, this business probably isn't for you," McVay said shortly after the Super Bowl.

McVay has vowed to return to that stage, and the Rams, under his watch, haven't given any reason to doubt them. But while the offense should still be explosive and the defense, with a couple veteran additions, could be improved, there are plenty of questions still left unanswered, even as Super Bowl expectations in L.A. are more outsized than ever before.

OFFENSE Last July, after he was named NFL Offensive Player of the Year, the Rams handed Todd Gurley a four-year, \$60 million contract, the biggest deal ever given to a running back. A year later, Gurley's future as the centerpiece of the team's offense is already in doubt, as questions about the long-term health of his knee remain unanswered.

Gurley missed the final two regular-season games of 2018 with inflammation. Upon returning for the playoffs, he never regained his usual form. If his knee is arthritic, as some reports have suggested, his best days could already be behind him.

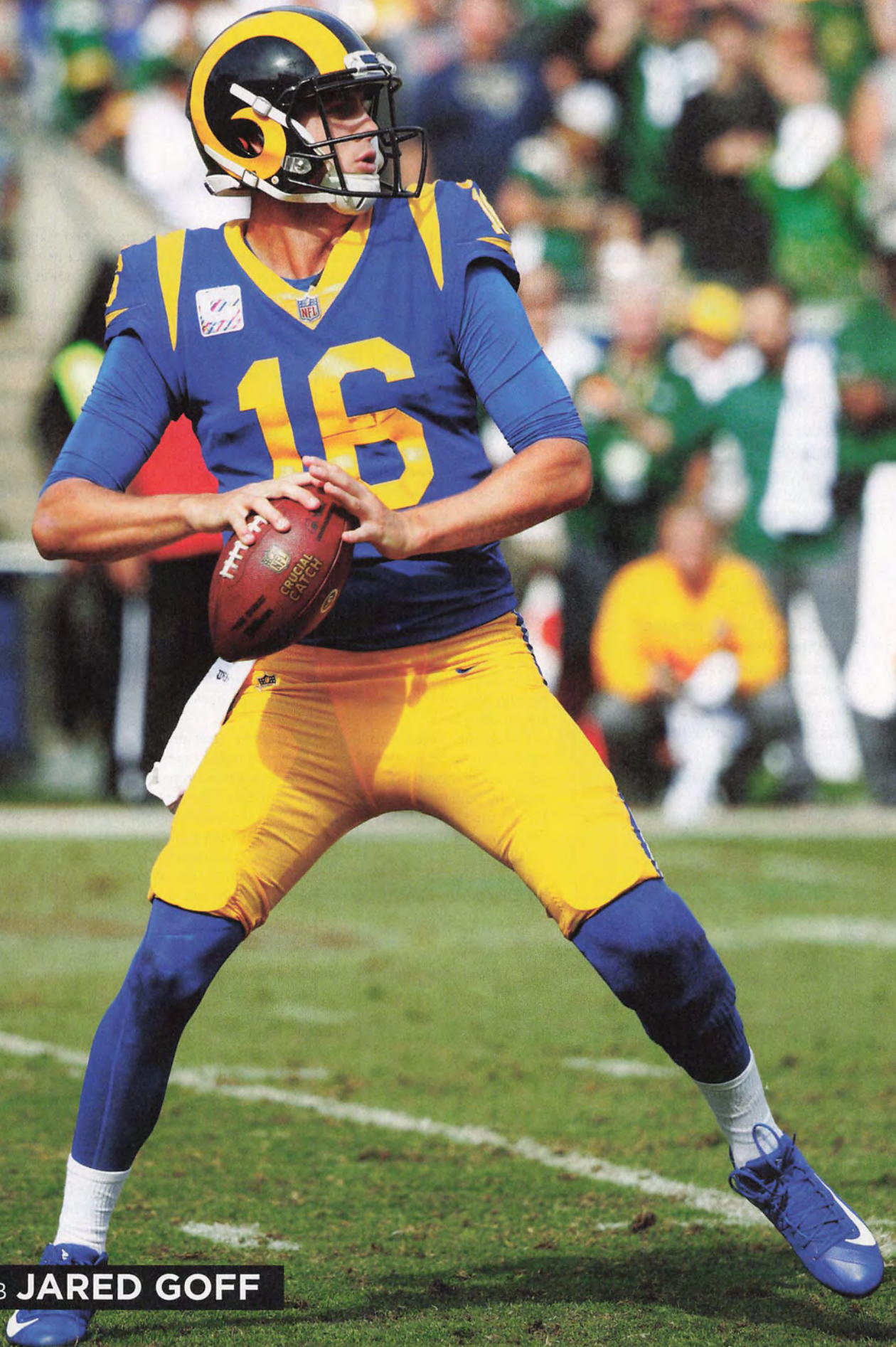
We may never know for sure; the Rams have shed little light about the mysterious state of that knee. But his playoff disappearance, combined with the Rams' use of a third-round pick on Memphis product Darrell Henderson, does little to soothe concerns about their star running back.

For all the unease surrounding Gurley, the most pressing questions about the Rams offense are up front. An offensive line that didn't experience a single injury across two seasons now must replace two of its most important cogs from a year ago, Rodger Saffold and John Sullivan. Joseph Noteboom and Brian Allen have earned the trust of Rams brass for the time being. But they have just 114 snaps between them over one season, and it's fair to wonder if a shake-up might lead to growing pains up front.

It'll fall on quarterback Jared Goff, in his fourth season, to keep the Rams' high-flying offense among the league's elite. Goff showed flashes of greatness a year ago; through three months, with the Rams sitting at 10-1, he was a legitimate MVP candidate. But

his performance down the stretch and through much of the post-season showed that there were still inconsistencies to iron out in his game. In the Super Bowl, the Patriots laid out the perfect blueprint to frustrate and confuse him.

How Goff bounces back from the disappointing conclusion to his best season yet will, in large part, determine whether the Rams are contenders. He'll have the same fleet of weapons at his disposal, assuming slot receiver Cooper Kupp fully recovers from the ACL tear he suffered last November. Brandin Cooks and Robert Woods were both 1,000-yard receivers, but both stand to benefit from Kupp's return. No team used three-receiver sets more than



QB **JARED GOFF**



2018 RESULTS (13-3)

Sept. 10	at Oakland	W	33-13
Sept. 16	Arizona	W	34-0
Sept. 23	L.A. Chargers	W	35-23
Sept. 27	Minnesota	W	38-31
Oct. 7	at Seattle	W	33-31
Oct. 14	at Denver	W	23-20
Oct. 21	at San Francisco	W	39-10
Oct. 28	Green Bay	W	29-27
Nov. 4	at New Orleans	L	35-45
Nov. 11	Seattle	W	36-31
Nov. 19	Kansas City	W	54-51
Dec. 2	at Detroit	W	30-16
Dec. 9	at Chicago	L	6-15
Dec. 16	Philadelphia	L	23-30
Dec. 23	at Arizona	W	31-9
Dec. 30	San Francisco	W	48-32
Postseason			
Jan. 12	Dallas	W	30-22
Jan. 20	at New Orleans (ot)	W	26-23
Feb. 3	New England	L	3-13

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Jared Goff	561	364	4,688	32	12
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Todd Gurley	256	1,251	4.9	17	
C.J. Anderson	43	299	7.0	2	
Malcolm Brown	43	212	4.9	0	
Robert Woods	19	157	8.3	1	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Robert Woods	86	1,219	14.2	6	
Brandin Cooks	80	1,204	15.1	5	
Todd Gurley	59	580	9.8	4	
Cooper Kupp	40	566	14.2	6	
Josh Reynolds	29	402	13.9	5	

KICKING: Greg Zuerlein, 27-31 FGs, 35-36 PAT, 116 points

TACKLES: Cory Littleton, 125; John Johnson, 119

SACKS: Aaron Donald, 20.5; Ndamukong Suh, 4.5

INTERCEPTIONS: John Johnson, 4; two tied with 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	421.1	2	1
Rushing	139.4	3	2
Passing	281.7	5	3
Scoring	32.9	2	1
Third Down %	45.0	5	3
Punt Returns	10.2	10	3
Kick Returns	21.4	T22	T12

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	358.6	19	11
Rushing	122.3	23	13
Passing	236.3	14	8
Scoring	24.0	20	10
Interceptions	18	T3	2
Sacks	41	15	10
Turnover Differential	+11	4	3

the Rams did a year ago. But McVay, in hopes of diversifying his scheme, has promised to use more varied personnel groupings. That could mean more two-tight end looks, with Tyler Higbee and Gerald Everett both showing signs that they're ready for bigger roles.

DEFENSE For the first time since the McVay era began, the most dominant defensive force in the NFL won't spend his offseason away from L.A. Not that it mattered for Aaron Donald during either of those last two seasons. He was named

Defensive Player of the Year at the end of both. In 2018, he led the league in sacks with 20.5, and this season, he'll again be the terror-inducing anchor of the Rams' 3-4 scheme.

The defensive front around him will be a little less ferocious without veteran mercenary Ndamukong Suh at nose tackle. Suh departed after just one inconsistent season with the Rams, and his presence — or, sometimes, lack thereof — won't be as missed as much as his reputation would suggest. The Rams are already raving about rookie nose tackle Greg Gaines, who's more suited to the role of hole-clogging, two-gap nose, anyway.

After relying on Donald to apply most of the pressure, the Rams made an effort in the offseason to fortify the rest of their rush. Dante Fowler Jr. was re-signed to a one-year deal after joining the Rams in a trade at midseason, and with a full offseason under his belt, his progress will be crucial to the evolution of the Rams defense on the edge.

He won't be alone rushing off the edge this time around. Clay Matthews may not be the force he once was in Green Bay, where he made six Pro Bowls, but the Rams signed him in the offseason with the belief that he still has plenty left in the tank. With defensive coordinator Wade Phillips deploying him from all over the defense, the USC product's situational skills should at the very least force defenses to account for him, meaning more one-on-one opportunities for both Fowler and Donald.

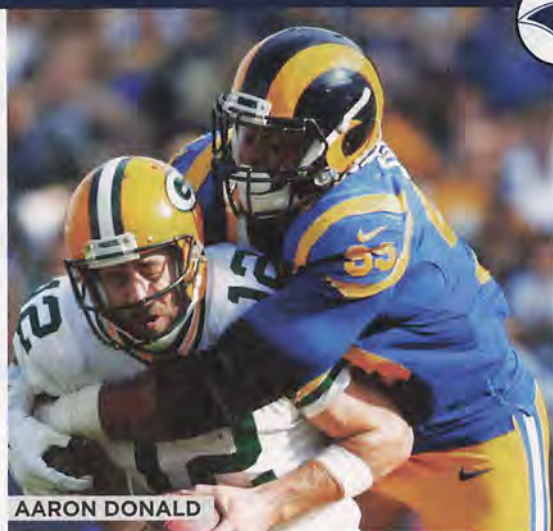
The Rams were the worst defense in the league in rush yards per attempt (5.1) last season. They bid adieu to Suh and linebacker Mark Barron, and without them, an already questionable run defense promises to be even more inexperienced. They'll hope they strike gold again at inside linebacker with Micah Kiser, who, like late-round pick Cory Littleton before him, earned plaudits on special teams before grabbing a starting role. But trusting Kiser to make a huge impact in the run game could be a risky proposition.

The addition of veteran safety Eric Weddle could help mitigate concerns both in the run and pass game. The 34-year-old was still one of the league's most productive safeties in both regards a year ago in Baltimore. But it's his steady veteran presence on the defense that could make the most significant impact.

With Weddle alongside emerging safety John Johnson, the Rams will have one of the most formidable back ends in the NFL. But at cornerback, consistency was an issue a year ago for Marcus Peters, and Aqib Talib missed half the season due to injury. Both seemed to find their groove late last season. As both enter contract years, the Rams secondary might finally be in position to live up to its promise.

SPECIALISTS Injuries have kept Greg Zuerlein out of seven games over the last two seasons, but when available, he's been one of the league's most dominant placekickers. He's missed only six kicks over the past two seasons, all of but one of which came from 40 yards or farther. Johnny Hekker didn't get many chances to punt last season — 22 fewer punts than in 2017 — but his consistency, again, made him one of the league's best field position weapons. Pint-sized returner JoJo Natson might have competition on kickoffs, but on punt returns, where he ranked in the top 10 in the league, Natson will remain a fixture.

FINAL ANALYSIS Could the Rams be the exception to the curse that befalls most Super Bowl losers? They return most of the key pieces from last year's NFC championship squad, and with another year under his belt, Goff should be able to put his late-season struggles behind him, assuming his new offensive line clicks and his star running back stays healthy. All signs point to another deep playoff run, one that could mean another chance at the Lombardi Trophy they lost a year ago.



AARON DONALD



2019 VETERAN RAMS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS	POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
8 Allen, Brandon	QB	6-2	209	1	Arkansas	FA-17	D6-Jac-16
5 Bortles, Blake	QB	6-5	236	5	UCF	FA-Jac-19	D1-Jac-14
16 Goff, Jared	QB	6-4	222	3	California	D1-16	D1-LAR-16
Wolford, John	QB	6-1	200	1	Wake Forest	FA-19	FA-NYJ-18

RUNNING BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
34 Brown, Malcolm	RB	5-11	222	3	Texas	FA-15	FA-LAR-15
33 Davis, Justin	RB	6-1	199	2	USC	FA-17	FA-LAR-17
30 Gurley II, Todd	RB	6-1	224	4	Georgia	D1-15	D1-LAR-15
42 Kelly, John	RB	5-10	205	1	Tennessee	D6a-18	D6a-LAR-18

RECEIVERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
12 Cooks, Brandin	WR	5-10	183	5	Oregon State	T-NE-18	D1-NO-14
81 Everett, Gerald	TE	6-3	240	2	South Alabama	D2-17	D2-LAR-17
89 Higbee, Tyler	TE	6-6	255	3	Western Kentucky	D4a-16	D4a-LAR-16
11 Hodge, KhaDarel	WR	6-2	205	1	Prairie View A&M	FA-18	FA-LAR-18
18 Kupp, Cooper	WR	6-2	208	2	Eastern Washington	D3a-17	D3a-LAR-17
82 Mundt, Johnny	TE	6-4	233	1	Oregon	FA-17	FA-LAR-17
19 Natson, JoJo	WR	5-7	153	2	Akron	FA-18	FA-Ind-17
13 Proehl, Austin	WR	5-10	175	1	North Carolina	FA-18	D7-Buf-18
83 Reynolds, Josh	WR	6-3	196	2	Texas A&M	D4a-17	D4a-LAR-17
88 Thomas, Michael	WR	6-1	189	3	Southern Miss	D6c-16	D6c-LAR-16
17 Woods, Robert	WR	6-0	195	6	USC	FA-Buf-17	D2a-Buf-13

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
55 Allen, Brian	C	6-2	303	1	Michigan State	D4a-18	D4a-LAR-18
66 Blythe, Austin	OL	6-3	298	3	Iowa	W-Ind-17	D7-Ind-16
64 Demby, Jamil	OL	6-5	321	1	Maine	D6b-18	D6b-LAR-18
79 Havenstein, Rob	T	6-8	330	4	Wisconsin	D2-15	D2-LAR-15
Kolone, Jeremiah	G	6-3	316	1	San Jose State	FA-19	FA-LAR-18
72 Neary, Aaron	C/G	6-4	299	1	Eastern Washington	W-Phi-17	FA-Den-16
70 Noteboom, Joseph	G/T	6-5	321	1	TCU	D3-18	D3-LAR-18
77 Whitworth, Andrew	T	6-7	330	13	LSU	FA-17	D2-Cin-06
62 Williams, Darrell	T	6-6	310	2	Western Kentucky	FA-18	FA-SF-17

DEFENSIVE LINEMEN	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
90 Brockers, Michael	DL	6-5	305	7	LSU	D1-12	D1-LAR-12
99 Donald, Aaron	DT	6-1	280	5	Pittsburgh	D1b-14	D1b-LAR-14
97 Fox, Morgan	DE	6-3	275	3	Colorado St.-Pueblo	FA-16	FA-LAR-16
94 Franklin-Myers, John	DL	6-4	288	1	Stephen F. Austin	D4b-18	D4b-LAR-18
69 Joseph-Day, Sebastian	DT	6-4	310	1	Rutgers	D6c-18	D6c-LAR-18
53 Lawler, Justin	DL	6-4	265	1	SMU	D7b-18	D7b-LAR-18
92 Smart, Tanzel	DT	6-1	295	2	Tulane	D6a-17	D6a-LAR-17

LINEBACKERS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
50 Ebukam, Samson	OLB	6-3	245	2	Eastern Washington	D4b-17	D4b-LAR-17
56 Fowler Jr., Dante	OLB	6-3	255	4	Florida	T-Jac-18	D1-Jac-15
48 Howard, Travin	LB	6-1	219	1	TCU	D7a-18	D7a-LAR-18
59 Kiser, Micah	LB	6-0	244	1	Virginia	D5a-18	D5a-LAR-18
58 Littleton, Cory	LB	6-3	228	3	Washington	FA-16	FA-LAR-16
52 Matthews, Clay	LB	6-3	255	10	USC	FA-GB-19	D1b-GB-09
45 Okoronkwo, Ogbornia	OLB	6-2	253	1	Oklahoma	D5b-18	D5b-LAR-18
49 Young, Trevon	OLB	6-4	259	1	Louisville	D6d-18	D6d-LAR-18

DEFENSIVE BACKS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
41 Christian, Marqui	S	5-11	207	3	Midwestern State	W-Ari-16	D5-Ari-16
24 Countess, Blake	DB	5-10	191	3	Auburn	FA-16	D6-Phi-16
27 Deayon, Dont'e	DB	5-9	159	2	Boise State	FA-18	FA-NYG-16
36 Hatfield, Dominique	CB	5-10	178	2	Utah	FA-17	FA-LAR-17
32 Hill, Troy	CB	5-11	183	4	Oregon	W-NE-15	FA-Cin-15
43 Johnson III, John	S	6-0	209	2	Boston College	D3b-17	D3b-LAR-17
38 Parker, Steven	DB	6-1	210	1	Oklahoma	FA-18	FA-LAR-18
22 Peters, Marcus	CB	6-0	195	4	Washington	T-KC-18	D1-KC-15
25 Peterson, Kevin	CB	5-11	185	2	Oklahoma State	FA-16	FA-Chi-16
47 Richards, Ramon	CB	5-11	188	1	Oklahoma State	FA-18	FA-LAR-18
23 Robey-Coleman, Nickell	CB	5-8	180	6	USC	FA-17	FA-Buf-13
21 Talib, Aqib	CB	6-1	209	11	Kansas	T-Den-18	D1-TB-08
32 Weddle, Eric	S	5-11	195	12	Utah	FA-Bal-19	D2-LAC-07
31 Williams, Darius	DB	5-9	187	1	UAB	W-Bal-18	FA-Bal-18

SPECIALISTS	POS	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
6 Hekker, Johnny	P	6-5	241	7	Oregon State	FA-12	FA-LAR-12
44 McQuaide, Jake	LS	6-2	235	8	Ohio State	FA-11	FA-LAR-11
4 Zuerlein, Greg	K	6-0	191	7	Missouri Western	D6-12	D6-LAR-12

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	12	Brandin Cooks	88	Mike Thomas
WR	18	Cooper Kupp	11	KhaDarel Hodge
WR	17	Robert Woods	83	Josh Reynolds
LT	77	Andrew Whitworth	70	Joseph Noteboom
LG	70	Joseph Noteboom		Bobby Evans (R)
C	55	Brian Allen	72	Aaron Neary
RG	66	Austin Blythe	64	Jamil Demby
RT	79	Rob Havenstein		David Edwards (R)
TE	81	Gerald Everett	89	Tyler Higbee
QB	16	Jared Goff	5	Blake Bortles
RB	30	Todd Gurley	34	Malcolm Brown

DEFENSE

DE	90	Michael Brockers	94	John Franklin-Myers
DT	99	Aaron Donald	92	Tanzel Smart
NT		Greg Gaines (R)	69	Sebastian Joseph-Day
OLB	56	Dante Fowler Jr.	45	Ogbornia Okoronkwo
ILB	59	Micah Kiser		Dakota Allen (R)
ILB	58	Cory Littleton		Dakota Allen (R)
OLB	52	Clay Matthews	50	Samson Ebukam
CB	21	Aqib Talib	23	Nickell Robey-Coleman
CB	22	Marcus Peters		David Long (R)
FS	32	Eric Weddle	24	Blake Countess
SS	43	John Johnson	41	Marqui Christian

SPECIALISTS

K	4	Greg Zuerlein	KR	19	JoJo Natson
P	6	Johnny Hekker	PR	19	JoJo Natson

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
QB	Blake Bortles	Jacksonville
OLB	Clay Matthews	Green Bay
S	Eric Weddle	Baltimore

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
RB	C.J. Anderson	Detroit
ILB	Mark Barron	Pittsburgh
S	Lamaricus Joyner	Oakland
QB	Sean Mannion	Minnesota
OG	Rodger Saffold	Tennessee
DT	Ndamukong Suh	Free Agent
C	John Sullivan	Free Agent

SCOUTING THE RAMS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP LOS ANGELES "The grand experiment of putting star free agents together on defense worked to the point of getting to Super Bowl XLIII and holding the Patriots to 13 points. Wade Phillips is a 'people' person, and he managed this group of high-profile players in an impressive way. ... Aaron Donald had an MVP year. His explosive quickness is unmatched by any other defender in the league. ... They let Ndamukong Suh walk with the belief that Tanzel Smart, who was only active for two games in 2018, will be part of the defensive tackle rotation. ... Cory Littleton is the 'least-known' best linebacker in the game. ... Dante Fowler Jr. and the newly acquired Clay Matthews should increase the pass rush, but neither is shore scary to an offense. ... John Johnson is an excellent football player, and they signed Eric Weddle to replace Lamaricus Joyner. ... Sean McVay has made a huge impact on the field with his play calling and off the field with regard to the hiring practices of owners. ... The two losses against Chicago and New England will be studied in the offseason, because those are the games that Jared Goff looked out of sorts. ... The mystery surrounding Todd Gurley's knee health continued all spring. ... The trio of Robert Woods, Brandin Cooks and Cooper Kupp is a tough matchup for most teams. ... The two young tight ends, Tyler Higbee and Gerald Everett, work well together. ... The line is average, but functional because the ball comes out quickly and Gurley is so good. ... Don't see a Super Bowl hangover with McVay and Phillips leading this squad; they are the class of the division and a legit contender again."



Rams IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
2.	Taylor Rapp	S	6-0	208	Washington
3.	Darrell Henderson	RB	5-8	208	Memphis
3.	David Long	CB	5-11	196	Michigan
3.	Bobby Evans	OT	6-4	312	Oklahoma
4.	Greg Gaines	DT	6-1	312	Washington
5.	David Edwards	OT	6-6	308	Wisconsin
7.	Nick Scott	S	5-11	201	Penn State
7.	Dakota Allen	LB	6-1	232	Texas Tech

The Rams traded down and traded down and traded down again, and still, they ended up with one of their top targets in Taylor Rapp, who never would've fallen if not for a slow Pro Day 40. He's the highlight in a class of underrated, middle-round value picks. The Rams proclaimed Darrell Henderson a "change-of-pace" back, but it's fair to wonder whether he's more of an insurance selection for Todd Gurley's balky knee. Two developmental tackles give the Rams depth along the offensive front, while Greg Gaines should help fortify a defensive front that has to replace Ndamukong Suh. Adding just one linebacker is a bit puzzling, considering the perilously thin depth at the position. But when you have as few holes as the Rams' roster does, you can afford the luxury of drafting for fit, instead of need.

Outside the Huddle

VETERANS COMING HOME After he was released by the Ravens, Eric Weddle laid out a plan to visit several teams during the offseason. But the Rams, who were originally scheduled to be last, had other plans. They convinced the Southern California native to hit L.A. first and then never let him leave, signing him to a two-year deal. Clay Matthews, another Southern California native, also never made any other visits. After 10 years in Green Bay, his first foray into the free agent market was an easy decision. The USC product signed with the Rams for less than he was offered elsewhere. "Living all of 20 minutes from here, it made sense," Matthews says. A shot at a Super Bowl certainly couldn't hurt, either.

GOFF'S FUTURE It was a no-brainer for the Rams to pick up the fifth-year option on Jared Goff's contract this offseason, which now will keep the young quarterback in L.A. through at least 2020. As for what happens after that, neither Goff nor the Rams are in much of a hurry to negotiate a long-term contract. The longer the Rams wait, the more expensive that deal is likely to get. Three quarterbacks are currently paid an average of \$30 million or more per season (Russell Wilson, Aaron Rodgers and Matt Ryan), and any future deal for the two-time Pro Bowl signal caller is likely to exceed that number. For now, though, both sides seem content to wait.

KUPP COMEBACK When Cooper Kupp went down in Week 10 of last season, he had a team-leading six receiving touchdowns and was well on his way to a banner sophomore season. That

breakout was cut short by a torn ACL. But the young slot receiver has been working his way back, and the Rams are aiming for him to be ready for Week 1 of the regular season. In 23 career games, Kupp has 102 catches for 1,435 yards and 11 touchdowns.

KIDDING WITH KINGSBURY When Kliff Kingsbury was fired from Texas Tech last December, Sean McVay tried to hire him as an offensive assistant. Kingsbury wound up with a better job, as head coach of the Arizona Cardinals. So to welcome his friend to the NFC West, McVay decided to play a prank. During a dinner between the two coaches and Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, McVay had a friend text him from a number labeled "Roger Goodell." The message warned that, for talking to Mahomes, the two coaches would lose draft picks for tampering. Kingsbury's reaction to that text? "He saw a ghost," McVay says.

A CHANGE OF PACE When McVay signed free agent running back Lance Dunbar to a contract in March 2017, the Rams coach thought he'd found the versatile, pass-catching back that his offense demanded. Things didn't work out with Dunbar, who had just one catch and 11 carries as a Ram. But in Darrell Henderson, the Rams' third-round pick, McVay feels he's found that "change-of-pace" back. Henderson, who averaged nearly 9.0 yards per carry last season at Memphis, isn't expected to replace Todd Gurley, but rather play alongside him as a pass-catching, third down option. His penchant for explosive plays could add an entirely new dimension to the Rams offense.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND



Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

2.79

The Rams averaged 2.79 points per offensive drive, the third most in the NFL.

16.5

The Rams defense forced a turnover on 16.5 percent of opponents' offensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

5.1

Opposing rushers averaged 5.1 yards per attempt against the Rams, the most in the NFL.



San Francisco 49ERS

NFC West Forecast: 3

THE ORGANIZATION

Co-Chairpersons: Denise DeBartolo York, John York
CEO: Jed York
General Manager: John Lynch
President of 49ers Enterprises and EVP of Football Operations: Paraag Marathe
Stadium: Levi's Stadium (68,500)
Surface: Grass
Website: www.49ers.com
Tickets: 415-60-49ers
Training Camp: SAP Performance Facility (Santa Clara, Calif.)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Kyle Shanahan
Record With Team: 10-22
Career Record: 10-22
Defensive Coordinator: Robert Saleh
Special Teams Coordinator: Richard Hightower
Assistant Head Coach/Tight Ends: Jon Embree
Quarterbacks: Shane Day
Running Backs: Robert Turner Jr.
Wide Receivers: Wes Welker
Offensive Line: John Benton
Defensive Line: Kris Kocurek
Inside Linebackers: DeMeco Ryans
Run Game Specialist/OLBs: Johnny Holland
DBs/Passing Game Coordinator: Joe Woods
Safeties: Daniel Bullocks

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS					
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense	
Sept. 8	at Tampa Bay	4:25	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)	
Sept. 15	at Cincinnati	1:00	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)	
Sept. 22	Pittsburgh	4:25	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)	
	BYE							
Oct. 7	Cleveland (Mon.)	8:15	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)	
Oct. 13	at L.A. Rams	4:05	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)	
Oct. 20	at Washington	1:00	7-9	299.7 (28)	353.4 (17)	17.6 (29)	22.4 (15)	
Oct. 27	Carolina	4:05	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)	
Oct. 31	at Arizona (Thu.)	8:20	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)	
Nov. 11	Seattle (Mon.)	8:15	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)	
Nov. 17	Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)	
Nov. 24	Green Bay	4:25	6-9-1	369.1 (12)	354.4 (18)	23.5 (14t)	25.0 (22)	
Dec. 1	at Baltimore	1:00	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)	
Dec. 8	at New Orleans	1:00	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)	
Dec. 15	Atlanta	4:25	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)	
Dec. 21/22	L.A. Rams	TBD	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)	
Dec. 29	at Seattle	4:25	10-6	353.3 (18)	353.3 (16)	26.8 (6t)	21.7 (11)	

In 2017, the 49ers went 6-10, but their subpar record was excused because then-first-year head coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch had inherited a 2-14 mess. In 2018, the 49ers dipped to 4-12, but that was largely excused because running back Jerick McKinnon tore his ACL before the season opener and franchise quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo suffered the same injury in Week 3.

In 2019? It's fair to say that no excuses will be tolerated as Shanahan and Lynch enter the third year of a down-to-the-studs rebuild.

The encouraging news is that the 49ers clearly improved their talent in the offseason. And improved health in key positions could mean that they meet last season's expectations, when many thought they would reach the postseason for the first time since 2013.

OFFENSE The 49ers were the definition of mediocre in 2018, ranking 16th in the NFL in total offense. But there's reason to believe they could jump from average to outstanding. Consider: In '18, their leading passer (Nick Mullens), rusher (Matt Breida) and wide receiver (Kendrick Bourne) were largely anonymous 2017 undrafted free agents who were forced into larger roles because of injuries.

The 49ers' decent performance despite the attrition was a reflection of Shanahan's play-calling ability and George Kittle's breakout second season in which the former fifth-round pick set an NFL record for receiving yards (1,377) by a tight end.

Now, the 49ers will bring back Garoppolo, and the backfield will be boosted by the return of McKinnon and the addition of free agent Tevin Coleman, who flourished when Shanahan was Atlanta's offensive coordinator in 2015-16. McKinnon, Coleman and Breida give the 49ers three fleet backs with pass-catching ability, and the competition for snaps will be one of the storylines of training camp. Breida, perhaps the most unheralded of the trio, quietly ranked fourth in the NFL in yards per attempt (5.3) last year.

Garoppolo has to be thrilled with the makeover the 49ers gave their wide receiver corps. Last year, Bourne led the group with 487 yards, which ranked 99th in the NFL. The 49ers didn't pick up the option on the contract of Pierre Garçon, 32, their most accomplished wideout, whose injury-marred two-season tenure included just one touchdown.

In free agency, they added Jordan Matthews — hoping he can recapture his early-career form — before going heavy at the position in the draft. In the second round, they made South Carolina's Deebo Samuel the third wide receiver selected before adding Baylor's Jalen Hurd in the third round. In Samuel, the 49ers believe they have a young Garçon, a sturdy and passionate pass catcher who runs angry after the catch. Hurd, a former running back, figures to have a more limited role as a rookie given his one season of experience at the position. His size (6'5", 226)

could make an attractive target near the goal line, which is a weapon the 49ers have lacked.

Samuel figures to earn a starting spot opposite Dante Pettis, last year's second-round pick whose injury-plagued rookie season included notable flashes of promise. Trent Taylor is the favorite to have the primary role in the slot, provided he's now fully recovered after offseason back surgery limited him last year. Kittle emerged as one of the NFL's best tight ends late in the season.

Garoppolo could be protected by a cohesive and athletic offensive line that's well suited for Shanahan's zone-blocking scheme. The 49ers could line up the same



QB **JIMMY GAROPPOLO**



2018 RESULTS (4-12)

Sept. 9	at Minnesota	L	16-24
Sept. 16	Detroit	W	30-27
Sept. 23	at Kansas City	L	27-38
Sept. 30	at L.A. Chargers	L	27-29
Oct. 7	Arizona	L	18-28
Oct. 15	at Green Bay	L	30-33
Oct. 21	L.A. Rams	L	10-39
Oct. 28	at Arizona	L	15-18
Nov. 1	Oakland	W	34-3
Nov. 12	N.Y. Giants	L	23-27
Nov. 25	at Tampa Bay	L	9-27
Dec. 2	at Seattle	L	16-43
Dec. 9	Denver	W	20-14
Dec. 16	Seattle (ot)	W	26-23
Dec. 23	Chicago	L	9-14
Dec. 30	at L.A. Rams	L	32-48

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Nick Mullens	274	176	2,277	13	10
C.J. Beathard	169	102	1,252	8	7
Jimmy Garoppolo	89	53	718	5	3

RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD
Matt Breida	153	814	5.3	3
Alfred Morris	111	428	3.9	2
Jeff Wilson	66	266	4.0	0

RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD
George Kittle	88	1,377	15.6	5
Kendrick Bourne	42	487	11.6	4
Dante Pettis	27	467	17.3	5
Marquise Goodwin	23	395	17.2	4

KICKING: Robbie Gould, 33-34 FGs, 27-29 PAT, 126 points

TACKLES: Fred Warner, 124; DeForest Buckner, 67

SACKS: DeForest Buckner, 12.0; two tied with 5.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Antone Exum, 1; Jaquiski Tartt, 1

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	360.6	16	8
Rushing	118.9	13	7
Passing	241.7	15	9
Scoring	21.4	21	12
Third Down %	37.8	18	10
Punt Returns	5.8	29	14
Kick Returns	26.2	4	1

Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	346.6	13	5
Rushing	113.4	14	8
Passing	233.3	11	5
Scoring	27.2	28	15
Interceptions	2	32	16
Sacks	37	T22	T13
Turnover Differential	-25	32	16

five starters who combined to miss just one start last year. The unit is headlined by the tackles. Left tackle Joe Staley is now in his 13th season and showed no signs of age last year. And right tackle Mike McGlinchey, last year's first-round pick, made a seamless transition to the NFL. The 49ers are expecting improvement from center Weston Richburg, a big-money free agent signing in 2018 who was hobbled for most of his debut season before having offseason surgeries on his knee and quadriceps.



GEORGE KITTLE

DEFENSE Shanahan repeatedly said the 49ers needed "closers" during a season in which they squandered fourth-quarter leads. On defense, he meant that the 49ers needed players who could provide sack-ending drives and pressure QBs into mistakes, which rarely happened during a season in which the 49ers set league records for fewest takeaways (seven) and interceptions (two). In response, the 49ers invested a 2020 second-round pick to acquire Pro Bowl pass rusher Dee Ford from the Chiefs before using the No. 2 pick on Ohio State edge rusher Nick Bosa. They are expected to provide much-needed disruption for a defense that hasn't had an edge rusher post more than 6.5 sacks since 2014 while ranking 28th in the NFL in sacks over that span.

The additions of Ford and Bosa could result in a dominant D-line. They join rising-star defensive tackle DeForest Buckner and two other former first-round picks: Arik Armstead and Solomon Thomas, who, to varying degrees, have to yet to fully realize draft-day expectations. The anticipated added pressure from the outside figures to lessen the double teams Buckner saw last year and allow him to build on his career-best 12-sack season.

The 49ers had a sturdy run defense last year but had to replace inside linebacker Reuben Foster, a 2017 first-round pick who was released in November following his third arrest in a 10-month span. That prompted the team to give Kwon Alexander a big-money contract to play alongside Fred Warner in the middle. Alexander and Warner, a 2018 third-round-er, give the 49ers a young, speedy duo that excels in pass coverage.

The 49ers hope that an improved pass rush benefits the secondary after they allowed the second-most passing touchdowns (35) and second-highest passer rating last year.

Cornerback Richard Sherman locked down the left side, and the 49ers expect the perennial Pro Bowler to be even better in 2019 because he's more than a year removed from surgeries on both Achilles. The 49ers are betting that two talented former first-round picks — newly signed cornerback Jason Verrett and re-signed free safety Jimmie Ward — can stay healthy. Verrett has played more than six games once in his five-year career, while Ward has finished four of his first five seasons on injured reserve. In 2017 and '18, the 49ers invested five draft picks on defensive backs, all of whom remain on the roster. The 49ers are hoping cornerback Ahkello Witherspoon and safety Adrian Colbert can recapture the promise they flashed as rookies in 2017.

SPECIALISTS The 49ers have said they won't grant franchise-tagged placekicker Robbie Gould's request for a trade, and they expect him to be available for the season opener after he didn't report for the start of the offseason program. Gould, a 14-year veteran, is the second-most accurate kicker in NFL history, and he's only improving with age: He's made 89 of his past 92 attempts dating to 2015.

The 49ers used a fourth-round pick on Utah punter Mitch Wishnowsky after Bradley Pinion signed with the Buccaneers. Wishnowsky, a native of Australia, is the only three-time finalist for the Ray Guy Award in college football history.

FINAL ANALYSIS With Garoppolo returning to health and the additions of Ford and Bosa, the 49ers enter 2019 with the two most important ingredients for success in the NFL: a franchise quarterback and players who can harass the opponent's quarterback. There is less buzz surrounding them than last year, when their Garoppolo-led 5-0 finish in 2017 sent expectations soaring, but they have an improved roster. It should translate into their first non-losing season since 2014, but the presence of the Rams and Seahawks in the NFC West is a reason they'll be scrapping for a playoff spot.



2019 VETERAN 49ERS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
3 Beathard, C.J.	QB	6-2	215	2 Iowa	D3b-17	D3b-SF-17	
10 Garoppolo, Jimmy	QB	6-2	225	5 Eastern Illinois	T-NE-17	D2-NE-14	
4 Mullens, Nick	QB	6-1	210	1 Southern Miss	FA-17	FA-SF-17	
RUNNING BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
22 Breida, Matt	RB	5-11	190	2 Georgia Southern	FA-17	FA-SF-17	
26 Coleman, Tevin	RB	6-1	210	4 Indiana	FA-Atl-19	D3-Atl-15	
43 Dayes, Matthew	RB	5-9	205	2 NC State	FA-18	D7-Cle-17	
44 Juszczuk, Kyle	FB	6-1	240	6 Harvard	FA-17	D4-Bal-13	
28 McKinnon, Jerick	RB	5-9	205	5 Georgia Southern	FA-Min-18	D3b-Min-14	
31 Mostert, Raheem	RB	5-10	197	4 Purdue	FA-16	FA-Phi-15	
41 Wilson Jr., Jeff	RB	6-0	194	1 North Texas	FA-18	FA-SF-18	
RECEIVERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
84 Bourne, Kendrick	WR	6-1	190	2 Eastern Washington	FA-17	FA-SF-17	
88 Celek, Garrett	TE	6-5	252	7 Michigan State	FA-12	FA-SF-12	
82 Dwelley, Ross	TE	6-5	240	1 San Diego	FA-18	FA-SF-18	
11 Goodwin, Marquise	WR	5-9	180	6 Texas	FA-Buf-17	D3-Buf-13	
13 James Jr., Richie	WR	5-9	185	1 Middle Tennessee	D7b-18	D7b-SF-18	
85 Kittle, George	TE	6-4	250	2 Iowa	D5a-17	D5a-SF-17	
83 Lucas, Marcus	TE	6-4	250	1 Missouri	FA-18	FA-Car-14	
81 Matthews, Jordan	WR	6-3	215	5 Vanderbilt	FA-Phi-19	D2-Phi-14	
14 McCaffrey, Max	WR	6-2	200	2 Duke	D2-18	D2-SF-18	
18 Pettis, Dante	WR	6-1	195	1 Washington	D2-18	D2-SF-18	
81 Taylor, Trent	WR	5-8	180	2 Louisiana Tech	D5b-17	D5b-SF-17	
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
63 Brunsell, Daniel	T	6-5	260	1 San Diego State	FA-19	FA-Atl-17	
78 Coleman, Shon	T	6-5	310	3 Auburn	T-Cle-18	D3-Cle-16	
64 DiLauro, Christian	OL	6-6	300	1 Illinois	FA-18	FA-Cle-18	
63 Garland, Ben	G	6-5	308	5 Air Force	FA-Atl-19	FA-Den-10	
65 Garnett, Joshua	G	6-5	305	3 Stanford	D1b-16	D1b-SF-16	
62 Magnuson, Erik	OL	6-6	305	2 Michigan	FA-17	FA-SF-17	
69 McGlinchey, Mike	T	6-8	315	1 Notre Dame	D1-18	D1-SF-18	
68 Person, Mike	OL	6-4	300	8 Montana State	FA-18	D7-SF-11	
58 Richburg, Weston	C/G	6-4	290	5 Colorado State	FA-NYG-18	D2-NYG-14	
74 Staley, Joe	T	6-5	295	12 Central Michigan	D1b-07	D1b-SF-07	
75 Tomlinson, Laken	OL	6-3	312	4 Duke	T-Det-17	D1-Det-15	
66 Toran, Najee	OL	6-2	305	1 UCLA	FA-18	FA-SF-18	
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
91 Armstead, Arik	DL	6-7	292	4 Oregon	D1-15	D1-SF-15	
98 Blair III, Ronald	DL	6-4	270	3 Appalachian State	D5a-16	D5a-SF-16	
99 Buckner, DeForest	DL	6-7	300	3 Oregon	D1a-16	D1a-SF-16	
96 Day, Sheldon	DL	6-1	294	3 Notre Dame	W-Jac-17	D4-Jac-16	
92 Delaire, Ryan	DL	6-4	260	3 Towson	FA-18	FA-TB-15	
55 Ford, Dee	DE	6-2	252	5 Auburn	T-KC-19	D1-KC-14	
93 Jones, D.J.	DL	6-0	321	2 Ole Miss	D6a-17	D6a-SF-17	
71 Lewis-Moore, Kapron	DL	6-4	315	4 Notre Dame	FA-19	D6-Bal-13	
76 Moore, Damontre	DL	6-4	260	6 Texas A&M	FA-19	D3-NYG-13	
95 Street, Kentavious	DL	6-2	287	1 NC State	D4-18	D4-SF-18	
77 Taylor, Jullian	DL	6-5	280	1 Temple	D7a-18	D7a-SF-18	
94 Thomas, Solomon	DL	6-3	280	2 Stanford	D1a-17	D1a-SF-17	
LINEBACKERS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
56 Alexander, Kwon	LB	6-1	227	4 LSU	FA-TB-19	D4-TB-15	
50 Coyle, Brock	LB	6-1	245	4 Montana	FA-Sea-17	FA-Sea-14	
47 Lee, Elijah	LB	6-2	229	2 Kansas State	FA-17	D7-Min-17	
59 Mayo, David	LB	6-2	245	4 Texas State	FA-Car-19	D5a-Car-15	
53 Nzeocha, Mark	LB	6-3	240	4 Wyoming	FA-17	D7-Dal-15	
51 Smith, Malcolm	LB	6-0	225	8 USC	FA-Oak-17	D7-Sea-11	
55 Taumoepeua, Pita	LB	6-1	245	2 Utah	D6b-17	D6b-SF-17	
54 Warner, Fred	LB	6-3	236	1 BYU	D3a-18	D3a-SF-18	
DEFENSIVE BACKS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
27 Colbert, Adrian	DB	6-2	205	2 Miami	D7-17	D7-SF-17	
38 Exum Jr., Antone	DB	6-0	219	4 Virginia Tech	FA-17	D6-Min-14	
36 Harris, Marcell	S	6-0	208	1 Florida	D6-18	D6-SF-18	
26 Mabin, Greg	DB	6-2	200	2 Iowa	FA-17	FA-TB-17	
33 Moore, Tarvarius	DB	6-2	200	1 Southern Miss	D3b-18	D3b-SF-18	
41 Moseley, Emmanuel	CB	5-11	184	1 Tennessee	FA-18	FA-SF-18	
32 Reed Jr., D.J.	DB	5-9	188	1 Kansas State	D5-18	D5-SF-18	
49 Robinson, Tyree	S	6-2	202	1 Oregon	FA-18	FA-Dal-18	
25 Sherman, Richard	CB	6-3	195	8 Stanford	FA-Sea-18	D5a-Sea-11	
29 Tartt, Jaquiski	S	6-1	215	4 Samford	D2-15	D2-SF-15	
34 Verrett, Jason	CB	5-10	188	5 TCU	FA-LAC-19	D1-LAC-14	
20 Ward, Jimmie	DB	5-11	193	5 Northern Illinois	D1-14	D1-SF-14	
24 Williams, K'Waun	CB	5-9	185	4 Pittsburgh	FA-17	FA-Cle-14	
23 Witherspoon, Ahkello	CB	6-3	195	2 Colorado	D3a-17	D3a-SF-17	
SPECIALISTS							
POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY	
2 Brown, Jonathan	K	5-10	194	1 Louisville	FA-19	FA-Cin-16	
9 Gould, Robbie	K	6-0	190	14 Penn State	FA-17	FA-NE-05	
40 Holba, Colin	LS	6-4	248	2 Louisville	FA-18	D6-Pit-17	
86 Nelson, Kyle	LS	6-2	240	7 New Mexico State	FA-14	FA-NO-11	

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	18 Dante Pettis	11 Marquise Goodwin
WR	19 Deebo Samuel (R)	84 Kendrick Bourne
LT	74 Joe Staley	78 Shon Coleman
LG	75 Laken Tomlinson	63 Ben Garland
C	58 Weston Richburg	62 Erik Magnuson
RG	68 Mike Person	65 Joshua Garnett
RT	69 Mike McGlinchey	67 Justin Skule (R)
TE	85 George Kittle	88 Garrett Celek
QB	10 Jimmy Garoppolo	4 Nick Mullens
RB	26 Tevin Coleman	28 Jerick McKinnon
FB	44 Kyle Juszczyk	

DEFENSE

DE	55 Dee Ford	98 Ronald Blair
DT	99 DeForest Buckner	95 Kentavious Street
DT	91 Arik Armstead	94 Solomon Thomas
DE	97 Nick Bosa (R)	77 Jullian Taylor
OLB	51 Malcolm Smith	53 Mark Nzeocha
ILB	56 Kwon Alexander	57 Dre Greenlaw (R)
ILB	54 Fred Warner	47 Elijah Lee
CB	25 Richard Sherman	23 Ahkello Witherspoon
CB	34 Jason Verrett	37 Tarvarius Moore
FS	20 Jimmie Ward	27 Adrian Colbert
SS	29 Jaquiski Tartt	36 Marcell Harris

SPECIALISTS

K	9 Robbie Gould	KR	32 D.J. Reed
P	6 Mitch Wishnowsky (R)	PR	18 Dante Pettis

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
LB	Kwon Alexander	Tampa Bay
RB	Tevin Coleman	Atlanta
DE	Dee Ford	Kansas City
WR	Jordan Matthews	Philadelphia
CB	Jason Verrett	L.A. Chargers

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
P	Bradley Pinion	Tampa Bay

SCOUTING THE 49ERS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SAN FRANCISCO "In what will be a pivotal year for the John Lynch/Kyle Shanahan era, the healthy return of Jimmy Garoppolo might be the only thing that matters. ... The 49ers were a league-worst minus-25 in turnover margin, and while most will point at the offense, it was the defense that only produced two interceptions. ... Matt Breida is a functional running back who averaged 5.3 per carry and chipped in 27 receptions as well, but they still added Tevin Coleman from Atlanta, and Jerick McKinnon should be back from his knee injury. I'm not sure how all three get utilized. ... George Kittle has far exceeded any expectations they had for a fifth-round pick. He hauled in 88 passes and five touchdowns from three different quarterbacks. ... When Kendrick Bourne leads your wide receivers with 42 receptions, that says it all with regards to what is needed from Marquise Goodwin and the newly signed Jordan Matthews. ... The offensive line should be complete and better after right tackle Mike McGlinchey had an impressive rookie campaign. ... The addition of Dee Ford along with first-round pick Nick Bosa should increase the pass rush right away. Solomon Thomas has been a non-factor thus far. Kwon Alexander is an instinctive run-and-hit linebacker, and his torn ACL should be ready by September. ... Jason Verrett has not been healthy since 2015, so I don't think he will augment the Richard Sherman/Ahkello Witherspoon cornerback duo. ... With Jimmy G, they have a chance to reach .500 and compete for a playoff berth, but that may be wishful thinking with the Rams and Seahawks in the same division."



49ERS IN THE DRAFT

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	Nick Bosa	DE	6-4	266	Ohio State
2.	Deebo Samuel	WR	5-11	214	South Carolina
3.	Jalen Hurd	WR	6-5	226	Baylor
4.	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	6-2	220	Utah
5.	Dre Greenlaw	ILB	5-11	232	Arkansas
6.	Kaden Smith	TE	6-5	252	Stanford
6.	Justin Skule	OT	6-7	318	Vanderbilt
6.	Tim Harris	CB	6-2	205	Virginia

The 49ers addressed their biggest needs, pass rush and pass catching, with their first two picks. It will be a major disappointment if Nick Bosa and Deebo Samuel, the third wide receiver drafted, aren't impactful Week 1 starters. Jalen Hurd figures to be a bit of project: He was a running back at Tennessee who has one year of playing experience at wide receiver and could eventually transition to tight end in the NFL. Mitch Wishnowsky was the highest-drafted punter since 2012. The 49ers made the investment because they think he could have an impact similar to that of Seattle's Michael Dickson, a first-team All-Pro as a rookie in 2018. Of note: The 49ers didn't address their secondary, part of a defense that allowed 35 passing touchdowns and had only two interceptions last year, until taking Tim Harris with the No. 198 pick.

Outside the Huddle

SEEING RED In Kyle Shanahan's 11 seasons as an offensive coordinator and play-calling head coach, his units have finished with the following average rankings: 10.7 in yards per game, 17.7 in points and 20.3 in red zone TD percentage. Last year, the 49ers ranked 16th in yards per game and 32nd in the red zone. Why the consistent disparity? A possible explanation is Shanahan's outside-zone blocking scheme, which utilizes lighter offensive linemen and can falter close to the goal line when power running is often required.

HEALTHIER APPROACH? The 49ers placed 19 players on injured reserve in 2018, which matched the 10th most in the NFL. In 2017, they placed 22 players on IR, which was the sixth most in the league. In response, the 49ers fired head trainer Jeff Ferguson and strength and conditioning coach Ray Wright in January. Their revamped medical staff includes a new position — head of player health and performance, which was filled by Ben Peterson, who spent more than two years as the director of sports science with the NHL's Philadelphia Flyers.

SEEKING SNAPS Jimmy Garoppolo's injury didn't just derail the 49ers' season; it also might have slowed his development. Garoppolo, in his sixth season, has made just 10 career starts and played 774 snaps. His backups, C.J. Beathard and Nick Mullens, who both entered the NFL in 2017, have roughly the same experience. Beathard has made 10 starts and played 732 snaps, and Mullens, who made his NFL debut in November, has eight starts and 519 snaps.

WORST FOR LAST It could be a December to forget: The 49ers' last five games include four dates against 2018 playoff teams (Ravens, Saints, Rams and Seahawks), with all but one of those games, against Los Angeles, coming on the road. The playoff quartet sported a 46-18 record last year.

EXPENSIVE MISS After releasing inside linebacker Reuben Foster in November following his third arrest in a 10-month span, the 49ers replaced the No. 31 pick in the 2017 draft with free agent Kwon Alexander. They signed Alexander to a four-year deal, \$54 million contract. Foster was signed to a four-year, \$9 million rookie deal.

WHAT A RUSH The 49ers fired defensive line coach Jeff Zgonina and replaced him with Kris Kocurek, who developed a strong reputation with the Dolphins (2018) and Lions (2010-17). The 49ers were attracted by his aggressive pass-rush style that uses the "Wide 9" technique in which edge rushers line up well outside offensive tackles.

DIFFERENCE MAKER The 49ers are 3-0 with Garoppolo in games decided by four points or fewer over the past two seasons. They are 1-9 in such games without him.

PRIORITY PUNTER The 49ers used a fourth-round pick (No. 110 overall) in April's draft to take Utah punter Mitch Wishnowsky. It marked the highest pick used on a punter since Jacksonville took Bryan Anger in the third round (70th overall) in 2012. Wishnowsky was a three-time Ray Guy Award winner and allowed just 106 return yards on his final 100 punts for the Utes.

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	8
2015	5
2016	2
2017	6
2018	4

NUMBERS TO KNOW

17.5

The 49ers turned the ball over on 17.5 percent of their offensive drives, the second-highest rate in the NFL.

4.0

The defense ended the opponent's drive with a turnover on just 4.0 percent of drives, the worst rate in the NFL.

4.15

San Francisco averaged just 4.15 points per offensive red zone drive, third worst in the NFL.



Seattle SEAHAWKS

NFC West Forecast: 2

THE ORGANIZATION

Chair: Jody Allen
Vice Chair: Bert Kolde
Executive VP/General Manager: John Schneider
Vice President of Football Administration: Matt Thomas
Co-Directors of Player Personnel: Scott Fitterer and Trent Kirchner
Stadium: CenturyLink Field (72,000)
Surface: FieldTurf
Website: www.seahawks.com
Tickets: 888-NFL-HAWK (635-4295)

THE COACHES

Head Coach: Pete Carroll
Record With Team: 89-54-1
Career Record: 122-85-1
Offensive Coordinator: Brian Schottenheimer
Defensive Coordinator: Ken Norton Jr.
Special Teams Coordinator: Brian Schneider
Asst. Head Coach/Defensive Line: Clint Hurtt
Quarterbacks: Dave Canales
Running Backs: Chad Morton
Wide Receivers: Nate Carroll
Tight Ends: Pat McPherson
Offensive Line: Mike Solari
Linebackers: John Glenn
Secondary: Nick Sorensen

2019 Schedule

			2018 NFL RANKINGS				
Date	Opponent	Time	2018 Record	Total Offense	Total Defense	Scoring Offense	Scoring Defense
Sept. 8	Cincinnati	4:05	6-10	310.8 (26)	413.6 (32)	23.0 (17)	28.4 (30)
Sept. 15	at Pittsburgh	1:00	9-6-1	403.3 (4)	327.2 (6)	26.8 (6t)	22.5 (16t)
Sept. 22	New Orleans	4:25	13-3	379.2 (8)	349.1 (14)	31.5 (3)	22.1 (14)
Sept. 29	at Arizona	4:05	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Oct. 3	L.A. Rams (Thu.)	8:20	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Oct. 13	at Cleveland	1:00	7-8-1	368.8 (13)	393.0 (30)	22.4 (20)	24.5 (21)
Oct. 20	Baltimore	4:25	10-6	374.9 (9)	292.9 (1)	24.3 (13)	17.9 (2)
Oct. 27	at Atlanta	1:00	7-9	389.1 (6)	384.5 (28)	25.9 (10)	26.4 (25)
Nov. 3	Tampa Bay	4:05	5-11	415.5 (3)	383.4 (27)	24.8 (12)	29.0 (31)
Nov. 11	at San Francisco (Mon.)	8:15	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)
BYE							
Nov. 24	at Philadelphia	8:20	9-7	365.3 (14)	366.2 (23)	22.9 (18)	21.8 (12)
Dec. 2	Minnesota (Mon.)	8:15	8-7-1	345.6 (20)	309.7 (4)	22.5 (19)	21.3 (9)
Dec. 8	at L.A. Rams	8:20	13-3	421.1 (2)	358.6 (19)	32.9 (2)	24.0 (20)
Dec. 15	at Carolina	1:00	7-9	373.3 (10)	353.2 (15)	23.5 (14t)	23.9 (19)
Dec. 22	Arizona	4:25	3-13	241.6 (32)	358.8 (20)	14.1 (32)	26.6 (26)
Dec. 29	San Francisco	4:25	4-12	360.6 (16)	346.6 (13)	21.4 (21)	27.2 (28)

Russell Wilson gave the Seahawks a contract deadline. They responded by giving him the richest contract in NFL history. Now, after a four-year, \$140 million deal, it's Wilson's serve.

The Seahawks presumably are paying for a return to the Super Bowl. They've handsomely rewarded their popular quarterback after he enjoyed the finest season of his seven-year career. Wilson was a big reason Seattle went from a team that was seemingly destined for a painful rebuild to the league's most surprising club — 10-6 and a playoff qualifier after a year's absence.

With their newfound momentum, the Seahawks return the league's leading rushing attack. They have middle linebacker Bobby Wagner, considered by some as the best in the game at his position. They should be strong on special teams. They drafted well for need. They even restored a once-pathetic offensive line.

Pete Carroll, after arguably turning in his best coaching job in 2018 and now entering his 10th season in Seattle, is banking on his team taking another step forward.

"If we're able to keep growing and keep going with what we've got, we have a chance to be a really good club," he says. "We can be really formidable."

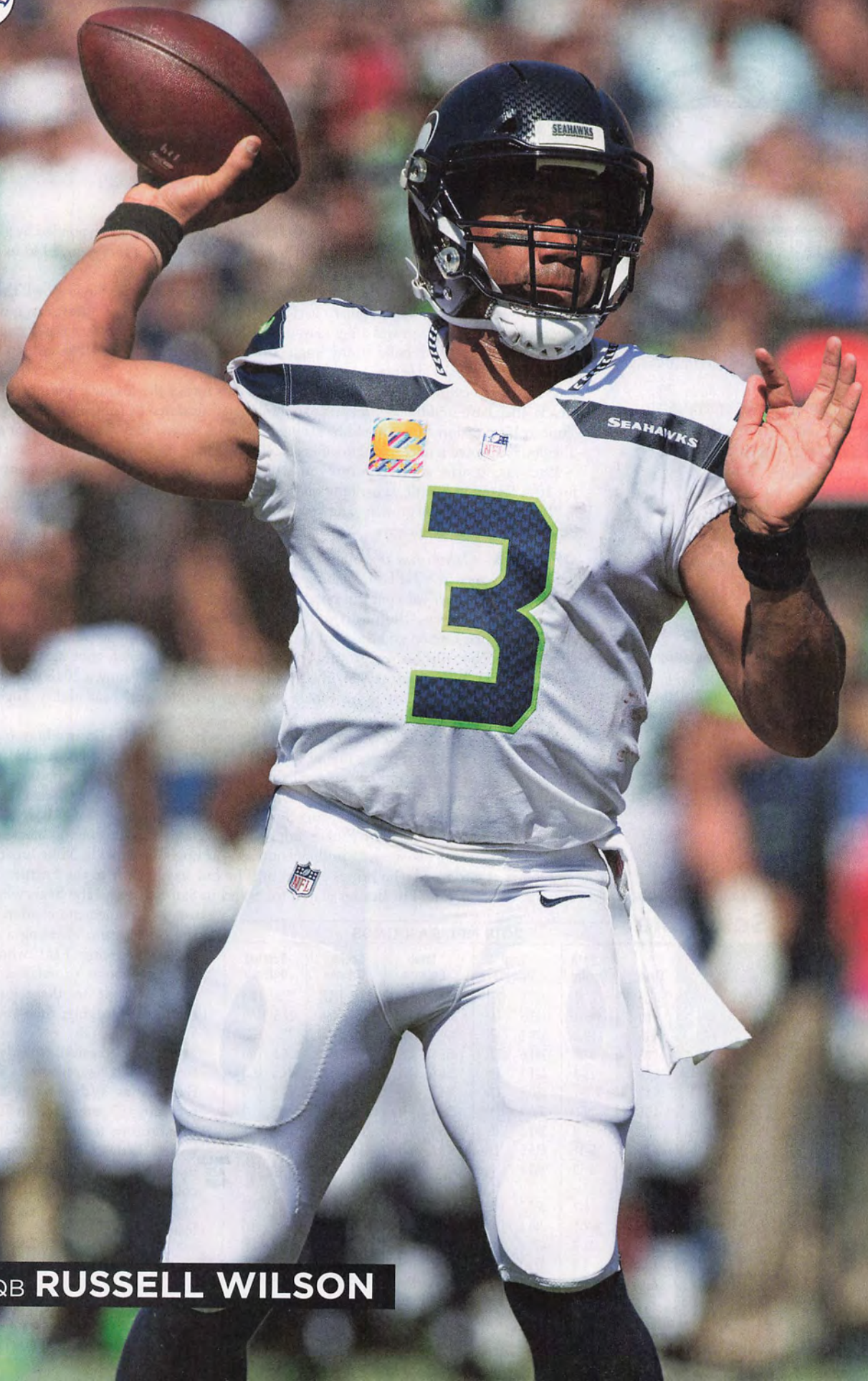
OFFENSE Carroll has the offense he's always wanted. Run-oriented. Physical. The Seahawks topped the NFL in rushing by a comfortable margin last season, piling up 2,560 yards. The guys who put this potent ground game in motion set the tone for the rest of the roster — it was, "Stop us if you can." Seattle relies on a productive pair of young runners in Chris Carson and Rashaad Penny to make defenses backpedal. Carson is a big, strong back who wills his way to yards much like Marshawn Lynch once did; he rushed for 1,151 in his second pro season, finishing fifth in the league. Penny, a 2018 first-round pick, overcame a slow start to his rookie season to provide breakaway ability. Together, they're a nice counterpunch.

Offensive line coach Mike Solari rebuilt the Seahawks line, and he did an admirable job. This group could be even better this season. Seattle had the services of left tackle Duane Brown for a full season, and he was a reliable presence on the blind side, grading out as a top-five performer at his position. Mistake-prone and maligned right tackle Germain Ifedi played more under control, cutting his league-leading penalties from 16 in 2017 to 10 last season. Right guard D.J. Fluker brought more energy as an inside run blocker and was rewarded with a two-year, \$9 million contract. The upgrade comes in Mike Iupati, the newcomer at left guard who brings a good fit if he can stay healthy to the Seattle power scheme; the four-time Pro Bowler played for Solari in San Francisco. The Seahawks also

use six linemen more often than any other team, inserting a third tackle in George Fant, who was athletic enough to catch a pass. The downside to these guys is their pass blocking; they gave up 51 sacks.

At wide receiver, speedy Tyler Lockett supplanted Doug Baldwin as Wilson's top target, providing 57 receptions in 70 targeted throws for 965 yards and 10 scores. Baldwin suffered a spate of injuries in his eighth season and could be headed toward retirement. That would be a significant loss.

Seeking insurance, the Seahawks selected D.K. Metcalf out of Ole Miss with the final pick of the second round. His 6'3" size



QB **RUSSELL WILSON**



2018 RESULTS (10-6)

Sept. 9	at Denver	L	24-27
Sept. 17	at Chicago	L	17-24
Sept. 23	Dallas	W	24-13
Sept. 30	at Arizona	W	20-17
Oct. 7	L.A. Rams	L	31-33
Oct. 14	at Oakland	W	27-3
Oct. 28	at Detroit	W	28-14
Nov. 4	L.A. Chargers	L	17-25
Nov. 11	at L.A. Rams	L	31-36
Nov. 15	Green Bay	W	27-24
Nov. 25	at Carolina	W	30-27
Dec. 2	San Francisco	W	43-16
Dec. 10	Minnesota	W	21-7
Dec. 16	at San Francisco (ot)	L	23-26
Dec. 23	Kansas City	W	38-31
Dec. 30	Arizona	W	27-24
Postseason			
Jan. 5	at Dallas	L	22-24

2018 INDIVIDUAL STATS

PASSING	ATT	COMP	YDS	TD	INT
Russell Wilson	427	280	3,448	35	7
RUSHING	ATT	YDS	AVG	TD	
Chris Carson	247	1,151	4.7	9	
Mike Davis	112	514	4.6	4	
Rashaad Penny	85	419	4.9	2	
Russell Wilson	67	376	5.6	0	
RECEIVING	REC	YDS	AVG	TD	
Tyler Lockett	57	965	16.9	10	
Doug Baldwin	50	618	12.4	5	
David Moore	26	445	17.1	5	
Nick Vannett	29	269	9.3	3	
Mike Davis	34	214	6.3	1	

KICKING: Sebastian Janikowski, 22-27 FGs, 48-51 PAT, 114 points

TACKLES: Bobby Wagner, 138; Bradley McDougald, 78

SACKS: Frank Clark, 13.0; Jarran Reed, 10.5

INTERCEPTIONS: Bradley McDougald, 3; Earl Thomas, 3

2018 TEAM STATS

Team Offense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	353.3	18	10
Rushing	160.0	1	1
Passing	193.3	27	14
Scoring	26.8	16	3
Third Down %	38.9	17	9
Punt Returns	5.7	T30	T15
Kick Returns	23.1	14	6

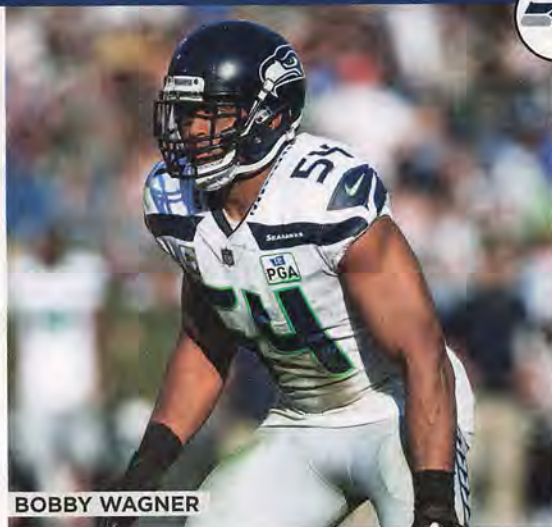
Team Defense	Stat	NFL Rank	NFC Rank
Total	353.3	16	8
Rushing	113.2	13	7
Passing	240.1	17	10
Scoring	21.7	11	4
Interceptions	12	T18	T7
Sacks	43	T11	T8
Turnover Differential	+15	1	1

and 4.33-second speed make him an instant deep threat for Wilson.

Tight end Will Dissly, equally effective as a blocker and receiver, enjoyed a breakout rookie campaign until suffering a season-ending knee injury; he'll be a big plus once healthy again.

That leaves Wilson, the face of this team. He's lost a little elusiveness but none of his big-play or fourth quarter magic. In 2018, he threw a career-best 35 touchdown passes while tying a career low with seven interceptions. He compiled a passer rating of 110.9, another career high. Wilson's next task: Make the franchise look smart for its huge investment.

BOBBY WAGNER



DEFENSE With the weighty contract commitment to Wilson, something had to suffer. The Seahawks decided it would be the defensive line. They moved elite edge rusher Frank Clark to Kansas City instead of paying him. Seattle will turn to first-round pick L.J. Collier and second-year returnee Jacob Martin, a young and unimposing pair, for production at end. Seattle went for power with Collier over Clark's highly effective twitch speed. Always a dependable run stopper, defensive tackle Jarran Reed wasn't known as an effective pass rusher, but he stepped up and turned himself into one with 10.5 sacks in 2018, surprising even the coaching staff. Reed is a rising star who will anchor the line alongside undersized Poona Ford. This stands to be the Seahawks' weakest position area.

Wagner and K.J. Wright form one of the better linebacker tandems in the league. Together for seven seasons, they're the strength of the defense, the last remnants — at least on this side of the ball — of Seattle's Super Bowl teams. Wagner, equally effective in pass coverage as he is against the run, shows no signs yet of slowing down — he went 98 yards for a score on an interception return last season. Coming off a knee injury, Wright played only a third of the season but was his big-play self when he came back, and he re-signed with Seattle when he could have gone elsewhere for more money. Barkevious Mingo, the third backer, was adequate against the run but not much of a pass rusher, collecting a lone sack. Wagner makes up for any deficiencies here.

The secondary no longer has a catchy nickname — or any of the players responsible for it. The Legion of Boom was totally mothballed once Earl Thomas left town as an offseason free agent. In its wake are young guys who don't do anything spectacular but don't get embarrassed either. Tre Flowers used his 6'3" size to his advantage in coverage and became Seattle's top cornerback as a rookie, forcing teams to throw away from him. Shaquill Griffin moved to left corner and got picked on a lot, but the Seahawks remain patient with him. Strong safety Bradley McDougald took on a leadership role and enjoyed his finest pro season, finishing with 78 tackles and tying for a team-best three interceptions. Seattle drafted Marquise Blair to fill the role of big hitter, a void created by recent departures of Kam Chancellor and Thomas. Free safety is Blair's position to lose.

SPECIALISTS The Seahawks may well have the league's top special teams. They went all out for a punter last year, trading up in the draft to take Michael Dickson in the fifth round, and he was even better than advertised — an immediate Pro Bowl pick. His 48.2-yard average was second in the league, and the Seahawks' net average of 42.5 was a franchise record. Jason Myers is a new, and an old, placekicker for Seattle. He was cut by the Seahawks last preseason, then went on to earn a Pro Bowl spot with the Jets. He's got plenty of range, hitting on 6-of-7 field goal attempts from 50 yards and beyond. Lockett remains a dangerous returner, both on punts and kickoffs, with three scoring runbacks in his career.

FINAL ANALYSIS It's been five seasons since the Seahawks played in the Super Bowl, six since they won one. If Carroll can find another playmaker or two — preferably at pass rusher and wide receiver — this team should be good enough to remain in the hunt for the postseason once again. With Wilson at the top of his game, anything is possible.



2019 VETERAN SEAHAWKS ROSTER

QUARTERBACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
2	Lynch, Paxton	QB	6-7	244	2	Memphis	FA-19	D1-Den-16
3	Wilson, Russell	QB	5-11	215	7	Wisconsin	D3-12	D3-Sea-12
RUNNING BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
32	Carson, Chris	RB	5-11	222	2	Oklahoma State	D7b-17	D7b-Sea-17
21	McKissic, J.D.	RB	5-10	195	3	Arkansas State	W-Atl-16	FA-Atl-16
20	Penny, Rashaad	RB	5-11	220	1	San Diego State	D1-18	D1-Sea-18
22	Proise, C.J.	RB	6-1	225	3	Notre Dame	D3a-16	D3a-Sea-16
40	Scarborough, Bo	RB	6-1	235	1	Alabama	PS-Jac-18	D7-Dal-18
RECEIVERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
89	Baldwin, Doug	WR	5-10	192	8	Stanford	FA-11	FA-Sea-11
18	Brown, Jaron	WR	6-3	204	6	Clemson	FA-Ari-18	FA-Ari-13
82	Darboh, Amara	WR	6-2	215	2	Michigan	D3d-17	D3d-Sea-17
84	Dickson, Ed	TE	6-4	250	9	Oregon	FA-Car-18	D3-Bal-10
88	Dissly, Will	TE	6-4	265	1	Washington	D4-18	D4-Sea-18
	Hollister, Jacob	TE	6-4	245	2	Wyoming	T-NE-19	FA-NE-17
16	Lockett, Tyler	WR	5-10	182	4	Kansas State	D3-15	D3-Sea-15
83	Moore, David	WR	6-0	215	2	East Central [OK]	D7a-17	D7a-Sea-17
19	Reynolds, Keenan	WR	5-10	191	3	Navy	FA-18	D6-Bal-16
10	Scott, Caleb	WR	6-2	203	1	Vanderbilt	FA-18	FA-Sea-18
46	Swoopes, Tyrone	TE	6-4	254	2	Texas	FA-17	FA-Sea-17
17	Turner, Malik	WR	6-2	202	1	Illinois	FA-18	FA-Sea-18
81	Vannett, Nick	TE	6-6	261	3	Ohio State	D3b-16	D3b-Sea-16
OFFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
68	Britt, Justin	C	6-6	315	5	Missouri	D2b-14	D2b-Sea-14
76	Brown, Duane	T	6-4	315	11	Virginia Tech	T-Hou-17	D1-Hou-08
74	Fant, George	T	6-5	322	3	Western Kentucky	FA-16	FA-Sea-16
78	Fluker, D.J.	G	6-5	342	6	Alabama	FA-NYG-18	D1-LAC-13
62	Henry, Marcus	C	6-2	303	1	Boise State	FA-18	FA-NO-16
53	Hunt, Joey	C	6-2	299	3	TCU	D6-16	D6-Sea-16
65	Ifedi, Germain	G/T	6-5	325	3	Texas A&M	D1-16	D1-Sea-16
70	Iupati, Mike	G	6-5	331	9	Idaho	FA-Ari-19	D1b-SF-10
73	Jones, Jamarco	T	6-4	293	1	Ohio State	D5d-18	D5d-Sea-18
75	Nkansah, Elijah	T	6-5	315	1	Toledo	FA-18	FA-Ten-18
77	Pocic, Ethan	C/G	6-6	320	2	LSU	D2b-17	D2b-Sea-17
72	Reed, Jordan	G	6-3	302	2	Purdue	FA-17	FA-Sea-17
66	Simmons, Jordan	G	6-4	339	2	USC	W-Oak-18	FA-Oak-17
DEFENSIVE LINEMEN		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
97	Ford, Poona	DT	5-11	310	1	Texas	FA-18	FA-Sea-18
94	Green, Rasheem	DE	6-4	279	1	USC	D3-18	D3-Sea-18
93	Jackson, Branden	DE	6-4	295	3	Texas Tech	FA-17	FA-Oak-16
99	Jefferson, Quinton	DT	6-4	291	3	Maryland	D5a-16	D5a-Sea-16
92	Jones, Nazair	DT	6-5	292	2	North Carolina	D3c-17	D3c-Sea-17
91	Marsh, Cassius	DE	6-4	245	5	UCLA	FA-SF-19	D4-Sea-14
59	Martin, Jacob	DE	6-2	242	1	Temple	D6-18	D6-Sea-18
98	Meder, Jamie	DT	6-3	308	4	Ashland	FA-19	FA-Bal-14
44	Orchard, Nate	DE	6-3	255	4	Utah	FA-19	D2-Cle-15
90	Reed, Jarran	DT	6-3	306	3	Alabama	D2-16	D2-Sea-16
LINEBACKERS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
58	Calitro, Austin	LB	6-0	240	2	Villanova	FA-18	FA-NYJ-17
47	Currie, Justin	LB	6-2	230	2	Western Michigan	FA-18	FA-NYG-15
52	Ellerbe, Emmanuel	LB	6-0	230	1	Rice	W-LAC-18	FA-Atl-18
49	Griffin, Shaquem	LB	6-0	227	1	UCF	D5a-18	D5a-Sea-18
56	Kendricks, Mychal	LB	5-11	240	7	California	FA-18	D2-Phi-12
51	Mingo, Barkevious	LB	6-5	235	6	LSU	FA-Ind-18	D1-Cle-13
54	Wagner, Bobby	LB	6-0	245	7	Utah State	D2-12	D2-Sea-12
50	Wright, K.J.	LB	6-4	246	8	Mississippi State	D4a-11	D4a-Sea-11
DEFENSIVE BACKS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
1	Boykins, Jeremy	CB	6-2	183	2	UCF	FA-18	FA-Ten-17
41	Evans, Marwin	S	5-11	211	2	Utah State	FA-19	FA-GB-16
37	Flowers, Tre	CB	6-3	203	1	Oklahoma State	D5b-18	D5b-Sea-18
26	Griffin, Shaquill	CB	6-0	198	2	UCF	D3a-17	D3a-Sea-17
42	Hill, Delano	S	6-1	216	2	Michigan	D3b-17	D3b-Sea-17
36	King, Akeem	CB	6-1	215	4	San Jose State	FA-17	D7-Atl-15
24	Luani, Shalom	S	6-0	202	2	Washington State	T-Oak-18	D7-Oak-17
30	McDougald, Bradley	S	6-1	215	6	Kansas	FA-TB-17	FA-KC-13
39	Reed, Kalan	CB	5-11	199	3	Southern Miss	FA-18	D7-Ten-16
34	Thomas, Simeon	CB	6-3	197	1	UL Lafayette	W-Cle-18	D6-Cle-18
33	Thompson, Tedric	S	6-0	204	2	Colorado	D4-17	D4-Sea-17
23	Thorpe, Neiko	CB	6-2	210	6	Auburn	FA-16	FA-KC-12
SPECIALISTS		POS.	HT	WT	EXP	COLLEGE	ACQUIRED	ENTRY
4	Dickson, Michael	P	6-2	208	1	Texas	D5c-18	D5c-Sea-18
5	Myers, Jason	K	5-10	190	4	Marist	FA-NYJ-19	FA-Jac-15
69	Ott, Tyler	LS	6-3	253	4	Harvard	FA-16	FA-NE-14

OFFSEASON DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

WR	14	D.K. Metcalf (R)	89	Doug Baldwin
WR	83	David Moore	18	Jaron Brown
WR	16	Tyler Lockett	1	Gary Jennings (R)
LT	76	Duane Brown	73	Jamarco Jones
LG	70	Mike Iupati	77	Ethan Pocic
C	68	Justin Britt	53	Joey Hunt
RG	78	D.J. Fluker	66	Jordan Simmons
RT	65	Germain Ifedi	74	George Fant
TE	81	Nick Vannett	88	Will Dissly
QB	3	Russell Wilson	2	Paxton Lynch
RB	32	Chris Carson	20	Rashaad Penny

DEFENSE

DE	95	L.J. Collier (R)	91	Cassius Marsh
DT	90	Jarran Reed	99	Quinton Jefferson
DT	97	Poona Ford	92	Nazair Jones
DE	59	Jacob Martin	44	Nate Orchard
OLB	51	Barkevious Mingo	57	Cody Barton (R)
MLB	54	Bobby Wagner	58	Austin Calitro
OLB	50	K.J. Wright	56	Mychal Hendricks
CB	37	Tre Flowers	36	Akeem King
CB	26	Shaquill Griffin	23	Neiko Thorpe
SS	30	Bradley McDougald	42	Delano Hill
FS	27	Marquise Blair (R)	33	Tedric Thompson

SPECIALISTS

K	5	Jason Myers	KR	16	Tyler Lockett
P	4	Michael Dickson	PR	16	Tyler Lockett

PLAYER MOVEMENT

KEY ADDITIONS +

POS.	PLAYER	2018 TEAM
OG	Mike Iupati	Arizona
DE	Cassius Marsh	San Francisco
PK	Jason Myers	N.Y. Jets
DE	Nate Orchard	Cleveland

KEY LOSSES -

POS.	PLAYER	2019 TEAM
FS	Maurice Alexander	Buffalo
CB	Justin Coleman	Detroit
RB	Mike Davis	Chicago
QB	Brett Hundley	Arizona
DT	Shamar Stephen	Minnesota
OG	J.R. Sweezy	Arizona
FS	Earl Thomas	Baltimore

SCOUTING THE SEAHAWKS

OPPOSING SCOUTS SIZE UP SEATTLE "It's been a fascinating case study to see the evolution of the Seahawks during the Russell Wilson era. From rookie contract and a team of stars to the NFL's highest-paid player surrounded by draft picks and reclamation projects, Pete Carroll and John Schneider have adapted their roster as well as anyone in terms of staying in annual contention. ... Look for Chris Carson and Rashaad Penny to share more of the load in 2019. Carson ran for 1,151 yards and nine touchdowns, but they are expecting Penny to have a breakout year. ... Tyler Lockett is a big-play artist, and they drafted size/speed freak D.K. Metcalf. They believe David Moore has a bright future ahead with his size and vertical speed on the outside. ... Perhaps the offensive line will stabilize with all five starters returning, but this is a group that allowed 51 sacks a year ago. ... Bobby Wagner is enjoying a Hall of Fame career and notched another 138 tackles. ... Jarran Reed is a Fletcher Cox-type, disruptive interior lineman; he had 10.5 sacks and 24 QB hits. ... The transition in their secondary was impressive, with rookie Tre Flowers moving from college safety to cornerback and holding up well. Bradley McDougald recorded 78 tackles, broke up nine passes and had three interceptions as he replaced Kam Chancellor. ... Their kickers are outstanding — Michael Dickson as the punter and Jason Myers being signed as their kicker after making 33-of-36 for the Jets in 2018. ... They appear to be the Rams' primary challengers for the NFC West and almost a certain playoff participant again."



Seahawks

IN THE DRAFT

B

RD	PLAYER	POS	HT	WT	COLLEGE
1.	L.J. Collier	DE	6-2	291	TCU
2.	Marquise Blair	SS	6-1	196	Utah
2.	D.K. Metcalf	WR	6-3	229	Ole Miss
3.	Cody Barton	ILB	6-2	237	Utah
4.	Gary Jennings	WR	6-1	216	West Virginia
4.	Phil Haynes	OG	6-4	322	Wake Forest
5.	Ugo Amadi	FS	5-9	201	Oregon
5.	Ben Burr-Kirven	ILB	6-0	230	Washington
6.	Travis Homer	RB	5-10	202	Miami (Fla.)
6.	Demarcus Christmas	DT	6-3	302	Florida State
7.	John Ursua	WR	5-9	182	Hawaii

The Seahawks spent a first-round pick on L.J. Collier, with the plan for him to become an immediate D-line starter and replace the traded Frank Clark. Collier will use brute strength and huge hands to get upfield. Seattle selected three receivers to pick up the slack with Doug Baldwin considering retirement. D.K. Metcalf should use his 4.33 speed to start in Baldwin's spot or as the third wideout, giving Russell Wilson possibly his best deep threat since he's been with the team. Marquise Blair is a big hitter who has good closing speed and has a real chance to jump over two veterans and grab a starting job. The sleeper is guard Phil Haynes, drafted for his run-blocking ability.

Outside the Huddle

MUSCLE MAN Seahawks rookie wide receiver D.K. Metcalf has such a ripped physique, just 1.9 percent body fat, that a Seattle scout goaded him into meeting Pete Carroll shirtless during his pre-draft visit, prompting the head coach to jump up and pull off his shirt, too. Metcalf's body received so much attention that Raiders coach Jon Gruden weighed in with this observation: "He looked like Jim Brown. I mean, he's the biggest wideout I've ever seen, and you've got to ask yourself, 'Who's tackling this guy?'"

NAME THAT FOOT While showing off his incredible punting ability as a rookie, averaging a booming 48.2 yards per kick, Michael Dickson didn't need long to earn a customized nickname. Seahawks veterans dubbed the Australian "Big Balls."

STOCK TIP In a show of appreciation for his four-year, \$140 million contract, making him the richest player in NFL history, Russell Wilson purchased \$12,000 worth of Amazon stock for each of the Seahawks' 13 offensive linemen, a collective \$156,000 expenditure. "You have invested in my life," the quarterback said. "This is my investment in yours."

BEDTIME STORY Wilson set a midnight deadline on April 15 to get a contract done. With 15 minutes to spare, agent Mark Rodgers presented the deal to Wilson. At 12:44 a.m., Wilson tweeted a video from bed, lying next to his wife Ciara, that said, "Hey Seattle, we got a deal. Go Hawks, but I'm going to see y'all in the morning. Time for y'all to go to bed."

NO FLUKE After bouncing around the NFL with three different teams, offensive guard D.J. Fluker played well enough with the Seahawks in 2018 to receive a two-year, \$9 million contract. In his mind, he's found a permanent football home. "I would love to be a Seahawk for life," Fluker says. "It's a good fit for me."

KICK RETURN Placekicker Jason Myers wasn't too proud to come back to the team that had cut him only seven months earlier. Myers re-signed with the Seahawks after enjoying a Pro Bowl season for the Jets, making 33-of-36 field goal attempts, including 6-of-7 from 50 yards or more. All along, he kept a good attitude about his NFL moves, saying: "In the end, if you fight through the lows, brighter days appear."

WRIGHT STUFF While Bobby Wagner represents himself these days in contract negotiations, he also lobbied hard for fellow linebacker K.J. Wright to return and for the Seahawks to give him an extension, which happened with his help. "That might have been the best thing we did — to negotiate with Bobby," Carroll says.

COACH WILSON Rookie wide receiver Gary Jennings not only gives Wilson another passing target, but he also provides the Seahawks quarterback with good memories. They attended the same Richmond, Va., prep school, and Wilson coached Jennings in basketball. Wilson was a high schooler while Jennings was in grade school at the time. "He was a scrapper," Jennings says. "He was a great basketball coach."

FIVE-YEAR WIN TREND

2014	12
2015	10
2016	10
2017	9
2018	10

Playoffs

NUMBERS TO KNOW

6.2

The Seahawks turned the ball over on 6.2 percent of their offensive drives, the second-lowest rate in the NFL.

27.8

But they went three-and-out on 27.8 percent of their offensive drives, the third-highest rate in the NFL.

16

The defense forced a three-and-out on just 16 percent of their opponents' drives, the third-lowest rate in the NFL.

Betting Guide

By Bet the Board Staff

Work doesn't stop when the Super Bowl concludes if you're looking to profit off the NFL; it's a year-round process. Professional bettors continue to monitor every move an organization makes, including changes in the front office (undervalued by new bettors) and those impacting personnel on the sidelines. As the season approaches, acquiring information and understanding said information are the difference between a profitable season and one that ends in "the red."

Here are some general guidelines to assist in your weekly endeavor of making money on Sundays this fall.

Guidelines

Do not overreact to any singular result

A helpful way to overcome recency bias is to monitor "Look Ahead Lines" that sports books like BetOnline.ag post on Wednesday or Thursday for the following week's games. If a team has a miserable outing devoid of major injuries, yet the line has moved significantly against them from the expected point spread, there's likely not much value betting against this team.

Read, read and read some more

Betting gems can be found throughout the week by listening to coaches and players talk about the upcoming game and past performances. Organizations may hint at a faster

game pace, targeting individual players more frequently or sharing intel about key players recovering from injuries. This is the kind of information that a math model simply cannot account for unless manually entered and properly adjusted.

Do not underestimate the value in attacking second-half lines

Bookmakers normally post lines within a minute of the first half ending so the margin of error in second-half lines can be greater than pre-game spreads. Bookmakers do not have the luxury of a week of information or an assist from sharp bettors shaping the market before larger bets are accepted, which means equal opportunity for everyone.

Scheduling tips: Good and bad "spots"

When evaluating a team's schedule, it's imperative to look at the amount of travel, how teams plan to execute said travel and the possible effects travel could have on a team. For example, take the dreaded London games. Teams in the past have taken dramatically different approaches on when to head across the pond — and the results have been different for those teams that arrive in London early in the week compared to those arriving late.

Does a schedule feature a number of road games in a row? Does an inter-conference game get sandwiched between

two prime-time or division games? You name it, there's a multitude of reasons a team could be in an ideal bet-against spot. There is a disclaimer pertaining to scheduling, though, and more important, how you arrive at making the decision to invest in teams any given week; oddsmakers like BetOnline.ag usually have travel situations already factored into the price in 2019, so tread lightly if you're basing investment decisions entirely on travel.

Here are a few teams with interesting schedule spots that could present an opportunity during the season.

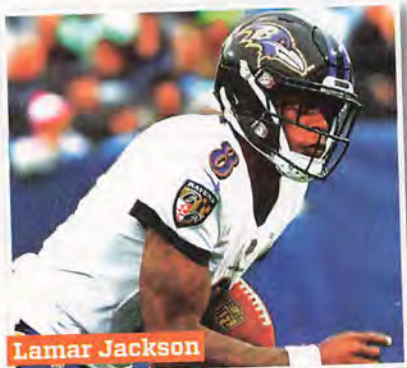
Baltimore — The Ravens don't play consecutive road or home games this season; alternating weekly throughout the entire schedule. Two of their toughest games in 2019 are sandwiched around a bye week. Baltimore will head west to Seattle and face a nonconference opponent after a division game against Cincinnati. The Ravens face Russell Wilson and the Seahawks before their bye — and after their break, an important "Sunday Night Football" game in prime time against the Super Bowl champion New England Pa-



Zach Ertz

trials awaits. That could be a real tough spot in Week 7 for Baltimore.

Philadelphia — The Eagles appear to have one of the easier overall schedules across the league this upcoming season, but their Week 8 visit to Buffalo will be the third road game in three weeks. It happens to come after traveling to face conference opponent Minnesota, and a road game in Dallas on Sunday night. Right after the Buffalo game, the Eagles face NFC contender Chicago before their bye, and then face New England after their break. On the other side of the coin, Buffalo will be at home for the third straight game and should be fresh since its bye comes two weeks prior. Pending the price, Buffalo could be a great team to invest in as a home underdog Week 8.



Lamar Jackson



Deshaun Watson

Teams you should **BUY and SELL**

The NFL is the most bet-on sport in the United States, and because it draws the most bettors, public perception really impacts the market. Every season, there's a handful of teams that are grossly mispriced due to perception.

Below are two teams entering the season that appear to be undervalued, and two clubs that will be overvalued in 2019.

BUY

Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Current Win Total: 6.5

Super Bowl Odds: 100/1

NFC Championship Odds: 50/1

NFC South Division Odds: 12/1

One of the biggest signings this offseason has been downplayed by the media, and that is head coach Bruce Arians coming out of retirement to take the reins in Tampa. When looking at Tampa Bay last season, we see a team that went 4-7 in one-score games, and many of those losses were caused by ill-timed turnovers (minus-18 for the season, 31st in the NFL). The truth is, using a simple Pythagorean Expectation formula, Tampa played more like an eight-win team than the five they finished with. Another reason to buy Tampa Bay this season is the schedule; the Buccaneers face just three teams that had a defense ranked in the top 10 in pass efficiency last season — and with Arians' propensity to pass early and often, we could see Tampa's offense make major strides. Finally, Tampa hired former Jets head coach Todd Bowles as its defensive coordinator, a role he excelled in before jumping to head coach. Look for Tampa Bay to make a run at the NFC South crown in 2019.

Houston — It's difficult to talk about the Texans without mentioning the pronounced difference in scheduling between this year and last. Houston played the easiest schedule last year based on win totals and the overall efficiency of opponents faced. This year, Houston has the toughest slate of opponents. The Texans' first four road games come against playoff teams from last year (Saints, Chargers, Chiefs and Colts), and on top of that, facing Atlanta, Indianapolis and New England at home does not create optimism that Houston can replicate the success in the win column of last year — and that's why BetOnline.ag has the Texans' regular-season win total set at 8.5.



Jameis Winston

New York Jets

Current Win Total: 7

Super Bowl Odds: 60/1

AFC Championship Odds: 30/1

AFC East Division Odds: 13/2

Head coach Adam Gase comes over from Miami, where it seems he may have been unjustly fired after attaining seven wins (Miami's win total last year opened 5.5 and closed 6.5 due to professional money) with a makeshift offensive line and a starting quarterback playing only 11 games. Gase now has a chance to get creative with second-year quarterback Sam Darnold and a shiny new toy in the backfield in Le'Veon Bell. On the other side of the ball, former Browns defensive coordinator Gregg Williams takes over a young defense with talented safety Jamal Adams leading the way. On draft night, the Jets added stud defensive lineman Quinnen Williams, rated by many as the best player in the draft. New York gets to face Buffalo and Miami twice, and there are only five games on the schedule against playoff teams from last season. Exceeding seven wins is very realistic, and if Gase can bring the best out of Darnold, the Jets will surprise people in 2019.

SELL

New Orleans Saints

Current Win Total: 10.5
 Super Bowl Odds: 8/1
 NFC Championship Odds: 5/1
 AFC South Division Odds: 1/2

New Orleans is coming off a devastating loss in the NFC Championship Game due to the missed pass interference call heard 'round the world, and while that alone is enough to damper a team's spirits, we must also factor an improved NFC South with Atlanta healthy and Tampa Bay looking to make a splash. The toughest part of New Orleans' schedule is early on, as the Saints face Houston, the Los Angeles Rams, Seattle and Dallas out of the gate. As reliable as Drew Brees has been during his career, his long ball lost zip last year, and he's not getting any younger. Monitoring his arm strength as the season progresses should be interesting. Putting New Orleans through the Pythagorean Expectation test, they played to a level that should have yielded 10.36 wins. Instead, New Orleans racked up 13 victories. Even with the benefit of playing both Houston and Indianapolis at home, believing the Saints can match their success from last year feels like a massive reach.



Drew Brees

Houston Texans

Current Win Total: 8.5
 Super Bowl Odds: 25/1
 AFC Championship Odds: 14/1
 AFC South Division Odds: 5/2

Houston had a slam-dunk schedule last season, but taking a peek at 2019 shows the Texans won't be as fortunate. While Houston climbed to an 11-5 record, taking first place in the AFC South, the Texans were bounced swiftly in the opening round at home by Indianapolis. This season, Houston has seven games against playoff teams from 2018, an improved Tampa Bay team on the road, and two more teams that were on the brink of the playoffs before their quarterbacks were bitten by the injury bug (Carolina and Tennessee). Houston's offensive line sputtered last year, and the moves made this offseason don't appear to have fixed a desperate area of need. Deshaun Watson still took way too many unnecessary hits a year ago, and his health could once again be a real concern. Despite the aforementioned 11 wins by Houston in 2018, their expected wins were nine (Pythag again!). If Houston can win double-digit games again, they would exceed most expectations.

Win Totals

Win totals are popular because they provide a rooting interest each week throughout the course of the season until an outcome is reached. Remember, it's vital to identify a larger edge with win totals than a regular bet, since sports books will be holding your money for four to eight months depending on when you place your bet. Think of it as providing an eight-month interest-free loan to a stranger. Less appealing, right? So you better make sure your edge is significant, because you could deploy those same funds throughout the course of the season on a bet with an even larger edge.

New Orleans Saints Under 10.5

This shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone after reading the previous analysis, given the letdown from last season, a difficult early schedule and the potential for regression from an offense led by 40.5-year-old Drew Brees, who has lost some arm strength. That's a recipe for betting the Saints don't win 11 games in 2019. With a division expected to improve, and a 5-1 record last year in games decided by seven points or fewer, expect a decline in wins for New Orleans.



Doug Pederson & Carson Wentz

Philadelphia Eagles Over 9.5

It's never easy looking *over* on a win total set above nine, especially with a high-profile team like Philadelphia, but the schedule sets up nicely for the Eagles. Philly faces two rebuilding franchises in the division in Washington and New York, as well as games against Buffalo, Miami and the Jets, none of which has a win total set higher than seven. Carson Wentz's back should be healthier, and the defense, which was ravaged throughout the season with injuries, will also be in better form. The benefit of looking at a team like the Eagles is that they are in tune, from the front office all the way down to the players. They consistently use analytics to their advantage, and it shows on the field.

Super Bowl: Favorite, Value Bet & Long Shot

Favorite: New England (13/2)
 Value Bet: Philadelphia (16/1)
 Long Shot: Tampa Bay (100/1)

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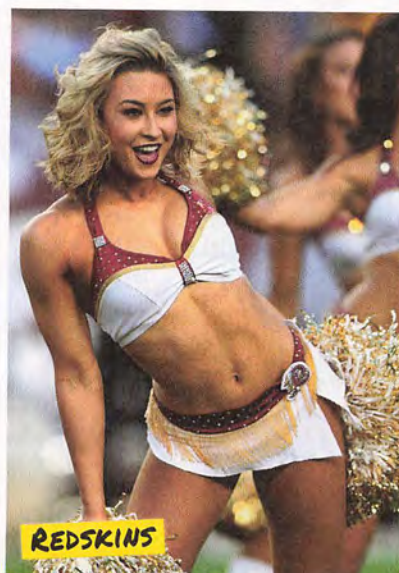
DOLPHINS



RAIDERS



TEXANS



REDSKINS



CHARGERS



49ERS

2018 NFL Stats

NFL Offense

	PPG	YPG	YPP	PASS-YPG	RUSH-YPG	3RD%	4TH%	FD/G
Arizona	14.1	241.6	4.3	157.7	83.9	29.1	37.5	14.9
Atlanta	25.9	389.1	6.2	290.8	98.3	45.3	52.6	22.0
Baltimore	24.3	374.9	5.3	222.4	152.6	45.0	59.1	22.9
Buffalo	16.8	298.6	4.7	174.6	124.0	31.6	38.9	17.7
Carolina	23.5	373.2	5.9	239.8	133.5	41.6	47.4	22.2
Chicago	26.3	343.9	5.4	222.8	121.1	41.0	60.0	20.7
Cincinnati	23.0	310.8	5.3	205.6	105.1	36.9	52.9	19.0
Cleveland	22.4	368.8	5.8	250.4	118.3	35.1	42.9	19.6
Dallas	21.2	343.8	5.4	221.1	122.7	41.4	57.1	20.1
Denver	20.6	350.1	5.5	230.9	119.2	33.3	60.0	20.0
Detroit	20.2	327.2	5.1	223.5	103.8	36.1	61.1	20.3
Green Bay	23.5	369.1	5.8	264.9	104.2	36.8	50.0	20.8
Houston	25.1	362.6	5.6	236.3	126.3	37.0	66.7	20.8
Indianapolis	27.1	386.2	5.8	278.8	107.4	48.6	46.7	23.2
Jacksonville	15.3	302.0	4.8	194.3	107.7	40.4	47.1	17.3
Kansas City	35.3	425.6	6.8	309.7	115.9	47.2	80.0	24.0
L.A. Chargers	26.8	372.6	6.3	255.6	117.1	39.5	87.5	21.1
L.A. Rams	32.9	421.1	6.4	281.7	139.4	45.0	40.0	25.1
Miami	19.9	289.9	5.3	181.2	108.6	30.1	61.5	15.8
Minnesota	22.5	345.6	5.5	93.3	252.2	35.8	42.9	19.4
New England	27.2	393.4	5.9	266.1	127.3	40.8	50.0	22.8
New Orleans	31.5	379.2	6.0	252.6	126.6	44.6	81.3	23.6
N.Y. Giants	23.1	356.1	5.8	103.1	252.9	36.9	60.0	18.6
N.Y. Jets	20.8	299.2	4.9	197.8	101.4	32.2	50.0	16.1
Oakland	18.1	336.2	5.4	234.4	101.8	37.1	43.8	18.8
Philadelphia	22.9	365.3	5.6	267.2	98.1	41.0	60.9	21.6
Pittsburgh	26.8	403.3	6.1	313.0	90.3	44.4	64.3	23.6
San Francisco	21.4	360.6	5.8	241.7	118.9	37.8	50.0	21.5
Seattle	26.8	353.3	5.6	193.3	160.0	38.9	78.6	20.6
Tampa Bay	24.8	415.5	6.3	320.3	95.2	46.0	69.2	24.2
Tennessee	19.4	312.4	5.3	185.9	126.4	40.0	58.3	18.1
Washington	17.6	299.7	5.0	188.8	110.9	36.4	55.6	17.5

NFL Defense

	PPG	YPG	YPP	PASS-YPG	RUSH-YPG	SACK	INT	3RD%
Arizona	26.6	358.8	5.4	203.9	154.9	49	7	38.0
Atlanta	26.4	384.5	6.0	259.6	124.9	37	15	48.7
Baltimore	17.9	292.9	4.8	210.0	82.9	43	12	34.1
Buffalo	23.4	294.1	4.9	179.2	114.9	36	16	36.5
Carolina	23.9	353.2	6.0	240.4	112.8	35	13	39.9
Chicago	17.7	299.7	4.8	219.7	80.0	50	27	34.2
Cincinnati	28.4	413.6	6.1	275.9	137.8	34	12	48.9
Cleveland	24.5	393.0	5.6	257.8	135.2	37	17	35.7
Dallas	20.2	329.2	5.4	234.7	94.6	39	9	42.3
Denver	21.8	365.1	5.7	245.6	119.6	44	17	38.9
Detroit	22.5	335.0	5.7	224.9	110.1	43	7	37.1
Green Bay	25.0	354.4	5.6	234.5	119.9	44	7	37.3
Houston	19.8	343.1	5.4	260.4	82.7	43	15	40.1
Indianapolis	21.5	339.4	5.5	237.8	101.6	38	15	41.0
Jacksonville	19.8	311.4	5.1	194.6	116.9	37	11	37.7
Kansas City	26.3	405.5	5.9	273.4	132.1	52	15	41.5
L.A. Chargers	20.6	333.7	5.4	227.9	105.8	38	13	39.1
L.A. Rams	24.0	358.6	6.0	236.2	122.3	41	18	37.2
Miami	27.1	391.1	6.1	245.8	145.3	31	21	42.9
Minnesota	21.3	309.7	5.0	196.2	113.4	50	12	30.5
New England	20.3	359.1	5.7	246.4	112.7	30	18	38.6
New Orleans	22.1	349.1	5.7	268.9	80.2	49	12	41.3
N.Y. Giants	25.8	371.4	5.7	252.8	118.6	30	16	42.2
N.Y. Jets	27.6	380.4	5.7	254.1	126.3	39	13	33.8
Oakland	29.2	381.4	6.3	240.8	140.6	13	14	46.3
Philadelphia	21.8	366.2	5.8	269.2	96.9	44	10	35.3
Pittsburgh	22.5	327.2	5.3	231.1	96.1	52	8	36.5
San Francisco	27.2	346.6	5.4	233.2	113.4	37	2	40.3
Seattle	21.7	353.3	5.9	240.1	113.2	43	12	35.0
Tampa Bay	29.0	383.4	6.1	259.4	123.9	38	9	40.3
Tennessee	18.9	333.4	5.3	216.9	116.4	39	11	36.6
Washington	22.4	353.4	5.7	237.1	116.2	46	15	43.9

2018 NFL Standings

AFC

AFC East	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div
New England	11-5	436	325	8-0	3-5	5-1
Miami	7-9	319	433	6-2	1-7	4-2
Buffalo	6-10	269	374	4-4	2-6	2-4
N.Y. Jets	4-12	333	441	2-6	2-6	1-5
AFC North						
Baltimore	10-6	389	287	6-2	4-4	3-3
Pittsburgh	9-6-1	428	360	5-3	4-3-1	4-1-1
Cleveland	7-8-1	359	392	5-2-1	2-6	3-2-1
Cincinnati	6-10	368	455	4-4	2-6	1-5
AFC South						
Houston	11-5	402	316	6-2	5-3	4-2
Indianapolis	10-6	433	344	6-2	4-4	4-2
Tennessee	9-7	310	303	6-2	3-5	3-3
Jacksonville	5-11	245	316	3-5	2-6	1-5
AFC West						
Kansas City	12-4	565	421	7-1	5-3	5-1
L.A. Chargers	12-4	428	329	5-3	7-1	4-2
Denver	6-10	329	349	3-5	3-5	2-4
Oakland	4-12	290	467	3-5	1-7	1-5

NFC

NFC East	W-L	PF	PA	Home	Road	Div
Dallas	10-6	339	324	7-1	3-5	5-1
Philadelphia	9-7	367	348	5-3	4-4	4-2
Washington	7-9	281	359	3-5	4-4	2-4
N.Y. Giants	5-11	369	412	2-6	3-5	1-5
NFC North						
Chicago	12-4	421	283	7-1	5-3	5-1
Minnesota	8-7-1	360	341	5-3	3-4-1	3-2-1
Green Bay	6-9-1	376	400	5-2-1	1-7	1-4-1
Detroit	6-10	324	360	3-5	3-5	2-4
NFC South						
New Orleans	13-3	504	353	6-2	7-1	4-2
Atlanta	7-9	414	423	4-4	3-5	4-2
Carolina	7-9	376	382	5-3	2-6	2-4
Tampa Bay	5-11	396	464	4-4	1-7	2-4
NFC West						
L.A. Rams	13-3	527	384	7-1	6-2	6-0
Seattle	10-6	428	347	6-2	4-4	3-3
San Francisco	4-12	342	435	4-4	0-8	1-5
Arizona	3-13	225	425	1-7	2-6	2-4

2018 Postseason

AFC Wild Card Playoff Games

Indianapolis 21, Houston 7
L.A. Chargers 23, Baltimore 17

NFC Wild Card Playoff Games

Dallas 24, Seattle 22
Philadelphia 16, Chicago 15

AFC Divisional Playoff Games

Kansas City 31, Indianapolis 13
New England 41, L.A. Chargers 28

NFC Divisional Playoff Games

L.A. Rams 30, Dallas 22
New Orleans 20, Philadelphia 14

AFC Championship Game

New England 37, Kansas City 31 (OT)

NFC Championship Game

L.A. Rams 26, New Orleans 23 (OT)

Super Bowl LIII

New England 13, L.A. Rams 3



Ben Roethlisberger

NFL Passing Leaders

	TEAM	YDS	YPG	PCT	YPA	TD	INT	QB-RATE	SACK
Ben Roethlisberger	PIT	5,129	320.6	67.0	7.6	34	16	96.5	24
Patrick Mahomes	KC	5,097	318.6	66.0	8.8	50	12	113.8	26
Matt Ryan	ATL	4,924	307.8	69.4	8.1	35	7	108.1	42
Jared Goff	LAR	4,688	293.0	64.9	8.4	32	12	101.1	33
Andrew Luck	IND	4,593	287.1	67.3	7.2	39	15	98.7	18
Aaron Rodgers	GB	4,442	277.6	62.3	7.4	25	2	97.6	49
Tom Brady	NE	4,355	272.2	65.8	7.6	29	11	97.7	21
Philip Rivers	LAC	4,308	269.3	68.3	8.5	32	12	105.5	32
Eli Manning	NYG	4,299	268.7	66.0	7.5	21	11	92.4	47
Kirk Cousins	MIN	4,298	268.6	70.1	7.1	30	10	99.7	40
Deshaun Watson	HOU	4,165	260.3	68.3	8.3	26	9	103.1	62
Derek Carr	OAK	4,049	253.1	68.9	7.3	19	10	93.9	51
Drew Brees	NO	3,992	266.1	74.4	8.2	32	5	115.7	17
Case Keenum	DEN	3,890	243.1	62.3	6.6	18	15	81.2	34
Dak Prescott	DAL	3,885	242.8	67.7	7.4	22	8	96.9	56
Matthew Stafford	DET	3,777	236.1	66.1	6.8	21	11	89.9	40
Baker Mayfield	CLE	3,725	266.1	63.8	7.7	27	14	93.7	25
Russell Wilson	SEA	3,448	215.5	65.6	8.1	35	7	110.9	51
Cam Newton	CAR	3,395	242.5	67.9	7.2	24	13	94.2	29
Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	3,223	230.2	66.6	7.4	24	12	95.4	24
Carson Wentz	PHI	3,074	279.5	69.6	7.7	21	7	102.2	31
Jameis Winston	TB	2,992	272.0	64.6	7.9	19	14	90.2	27
Sam Darnold	NYJ	2,865	220.4	57.7	6.9	17	15	77.6	30
Blake Bortles	JAC	2,718	209.1	60.3	6.7	13	11	79.8	31
Andy Dalton	CIN	2,566	233.3	61.9	7.0	21	11	89.6	21
Marcus Mariota	TEN	2,528	180.6	68.9	7.6	11	8	92.3	42
Joe Flacco	BAL	2,465	273.9	61.2	6.5	12	6	84.2	16
Ryan Fitzpatrick	TB	2,366	295.8	66.7	9.6	17	12	100.4	14
Josh Rosen	ARI	2,278	162.7	55.2	5.8	11	14	66.7	45
Nick Mullens	SF	2,277	284.6	64.2	8.3	13	10	90.8	17
Alex Smith	WAS	2,180	218.0	62.5	6.7	10	5	85.7	22
Josh Allen	BUF	2,074	172.8	52.8	6.5	10	12	67.9	28
Ryan Tannehill	MIA	1,979	179.9	64.2	7.2	17	9	92.7	35
Nick Foles	PHI	1,413	282.6	72.3	7.3	7	4	96.0	9
C.J. Beathard	SF	1,252	208.7	60.4	7.4	8	7	81.8	18
Brock Osweiler	MIA	1,247	178.1	63.5	7.0	6	4	86.1	17
Lamar Jackson	BAL	1,201	75.1	58.2	7.1	6	3	84.5	16
Jeff Driskel	CIN	1,003	111.4	59.7	5.7	6	2	82.2	16
Jimmy Garoppolo	SF	718	239.3	59.6	8.1	5	3	90.0	13
Cody Kessler	JAC	709	141.8	64.9	5.4	2	2	77.4	22
Blaine Gabbert	TEN	626	78.3	60.4	6.2	4	4	74.9	5
Josh Johnson	WAS	590	147.5	57.1	6.5	3	4	69.4	9
Josh McCown	NYJ	539	134.8	54.5	4.9	1	4	55.8	7
Chase Daniel	CHI	515	103.0	69.7	6.8	3	2	90.6	9
Tyrod Taylor	CLE	473	118.3	49.4	5.6	2	2	64.5	13
Derek Anderson	BUF	465	232.5	60.0	6.6	0	4	56.0	5
Sam Bradford	ARI	400	133.3	62.5	5.0	2	4	62.5	6
Colt McCoy	WAS	372	124.0	63.0	6.9	3	3	78.6	6
Taylor Heinicke	CAR	320	53.3	61.4	5.6	1	3	60.6	2
Nathan Peterman	BUF	296	74.0	54.3	3.7	1	7	30.7	7

NFL Sack Leaders

	TEAM	SACKS		TEAM	SACKS
Aaron Donald	LAR	20.5	Lorenzo Alexander	BUF	6.5
J.J. Watt	HOU	16.0	Javon Hargrave	PIT	6.5
Chris Jones	KC	15.5	Carl Nassib	TB	6.5
Danielle Hunter	MIN	14.5	Robert Quinn	MIA	6.5
Von Miller	DEN	14.5	Allen Bailey	KC	6.0
Myles Garrett	CLE	13.5	Jayon Brown	TEN	6.0
Frank Clark	SEA	13.0	Kenny Clark	GB	6.0
Dee Ford	KC	13.0	Jack Crawford	ATL	6.0
Chandler Jones	ARI	13.0	Jarrad Davis	DET	6.0
Ryan Kerrigan	WAS	13.0	Randy Gregory	DAL	6.0
T.J. Watt	PIT	13.0	Sam Hubbard	CIN	6.0
Khalil Mack	CHI	12.5	Grady Jarrett	ATL	6.0
Jason Pierre-Paul	TB	12.5	Cameron Wake	MIA	6.0
DeForest Buckner	SF	12.0	Ronald Blair III	SF	5.5
Bradley Chubb	DEN	12.0	Joey Bosa	LAC	5.5
Cameron Jordan	NO	12.0	Tyrone Crawford	DAL	5.5
Calais Campbell	JAC	10.5	Everson Griffen	MIN	5.5
Fletcher Cox	PHI	10.5	B.J. Hill	NYG	5.5
DeMarcus Lawrence	DAL	10.5	Cassius Marsh	SF	5.5
Jarran Reed	SEA	10.5	Larry Ogunjobi	CLE	5.5
Geno Atkins	CIN	10.0	Jabaal Sheard	IND	5.5
Yannick Ngakoue	JAC	9.5	Stephon Tuitt	PIT	5.5
Mario Addison	CAR	9.0	Demario Davis	NO	5.0
Denico Autry	IND	9.0	Margus Hunt	IND	5.0
Michael Bennett	PHI	9.0	Blake Martinez	GB	5.0
Jadeveon Clowney	HOU	9.0	Da'Ron Payne	WAS	5.0
Justin Houston	KC	9.0	Roquan Smith	CHI	5.0
Jonathan Allen	WAS	8.0	Kyle Williams	BUF	5.0
Carlos Dunlap	CIN	8.0	Leonard Williams	NYJ	5.0
Cameron Heyward	PIT	8.0	Marcus Davenport	NO	4.5
Sheldon Rankins	NO	8.0	Rodney Gunter	ARI	4.5
Trey Flowers	NE	7.5	Harold Landry	TEN	4.5
Akiem Hicks	CHI	7.5	Sheldon Richardson	MIN	4.5
Matt Ioannidis	WAS	7.5	Ndamukong Suh	LAR	4.5
Romeo Okwara	DET	7.5	Vince Williams	PIT	4.5
Jurrell Casey	TEN	7.0	Wesley Woodyard	TEN	4.5
Melvin Ingram III	LAC	7.0	Ezekiel Ansah	DET	4.0
Jerry Hughes	BUF	7.0	Jamie Collins Sr.	CLE	4.0
Henry Anderson	NYJ	7.0	Dante Fowler Jr.	LAR	4.0
Olivier Vernon	NYG	7.0	Brandon Graham	PHI	4.0
Darius Leonard	IND	7.0	Cory Littleton	LAR	4.0

NFL Interception Leaders

	TEAM	INT		TEAM	INT
Kyle Fuller	CHI	7	Quandre Diggs	DET	3
Damontae Kazee	ATL	7	Chris Harris Jr.	DEN	3
Eddie Jackson	CHI	6	Derwin James	LAC	3
Alec Ogletree	NYG	5	Jonathan Jones	NE	3
Shawn Williams	CIN	5	Reshad Jones	MIA	3
Kevin Byard	TEN	4	Desmond King II	LAC	3
Donte Jackson	CAR	4	Darron Lee	NYJ	3
John Johnson III	LAR	4	Cory Littleton	LAR	3
Steven Nelson	KC	4	T.J. McDonald	MIA	3
Jordan Poyer	BUF	4	Bradley McDougald	SEA	3
Damarious Randall	CLE	4	Matt Milano	BUF	3
Curtis Riley	NYG	4	Kenny Moore II	IND	3
D.J. Swearinger	WAS	4	Josh Norman	WAS	3
Mike Adams	CAR	3	Brian Poole	ATL	3
Kiko Alonso	MIA	3	Jalen Ramsey	JAC	3
Prince Amukamara	CHI	3	Justin Reid	HOU	3
Jessie Bates III	CIN	3	Justin Simmons	DEN	3
Tre Boston	ARI	3	Harrison Smith	MIN	3
Malcolm Butler	TEN	3	Denzel Ward	CLE	3
Ha Ha Clinton-Dix	GB/WAS	3	Lorenzo Alexander	BUF	2



Ezekiel Elliott

NFL Rushing Leaders

	TEAM	ATT	YDS	YPG	YPC	APG	TD	20+
Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	304	1,434	95.6	4.7	20.3	6	11
Saquon Barkley	NYG	261	1,307	81.7	5.0	16.3	11	16
Todd Gurley II	LAR	256	1,251	89.4	4.9	18.3	17	11
Joe Mixon	CIN	237	1,168	83.4	4.9	16.9	8	11
Chris Carson	SEA	247	1,151	82.2	4.7	17.6	9	8
Christian McCaffrey	CAR	219	1,098	68.6	5.0	13.7	7	6
Derrick Henry	TEN	215	1,059	66.2	4.9	13.4	12	4
Adrian Peterson	WAS	251	1,042	65.1	4.2	15.7	7	5
Phillip Lindsay	DEN	192	1,037	69.1	5.4	12.8	9	8
Nick Chubb	CLE	192	996	62.3	5.2	12.0	8	11
Lamar Miller	HOU	210	973	69.5	4.6	15.0	5	6
James Conner	PIT	215	973	74.8	4.5	16.5	12	9
David Johnson	ARI	258	940	58.8	3.6	16.1	7	2
Jordan Howard	CHI	250	935	58.4	3.7	15.6	9	5
Sony Michel	NE	209	931	71.6	4.5	16.1	6	4
Marlon Mack	IND	195	908	75.7	4.7	16.3	9	7
Melvin Gordon III	LAC	175	885	73.8	5.1	14.6	10	9
Alvin Kamara	NO	194	883	58.9	4.6	12.9	14	1
Peyton Barber	TB	234	871	54.4	3.7	14.6	5	4
Kareem Hunt	KC	181	824	74.9	4.6	16.5	7	7
Matt Breida	SF	153	814	58.1	5.3	10.9	3	10
Tevin Coleman	ATL	167	800	50.0	4.8	10.4	4	8
Aaron Jones	GB	133	728	60.7	5.5	11.1	8	4
Doug Martin	OAK	172	723	45.2	4.2	10.8	4	2
Frank Gore	MIA	156	722	51.6	4.6	11.1	0	5
Gus Edwards	BAL	137	718	65.3	5.2	12.5	2	4
Lamar Jackson	BAL	147	695	43.4	4.7	9.2	5	8

NFL Receiving Leaders

	TEAM	REC	YDS	YPG	YPC	LONG	TD	20+
Julio Jones	ATL	113	1,677	104.8	14.8	58	8	24
DeAndre Hopkins	HOU	115	1,572	98.3	13.7	49	11	23
Mike Evans	TB	86	1,524	95.3	17.7	72	8	26
Tyreek Hill	KC	87	1,479	92.4	17.0	75	12	27
JuJu Smith-Schuster	PIT	111	1,426	89.1	12.8	97	7	18
Michael Thomas	NO	125	1,405	87.8	11.2	72	9	17
Davante Adams	GB	111	1,386	92.4	12.5	57	13	18
George Kittle	SF	88	1,377	86.1	15.6	85	5	20
Adam Thielen	MIN	113	1,373	85.8	12.2	68	9	17
Travis Kelce	KC	103	1,336	83.5	13.0	43	10	18
Antonio Brown	PIT	104	1,297	86.5	12.5	78	15	17
T.Y. Hilton	IND	76	1,270	90.7	16.7	68	6	22
Robert Woods	LAR	86	1,219	76.2	14.2	39	6	20
Brandin Cooks	LAR	80	1,204	75.3	15.1	57	5	22
Keenan Allen	LAC	97	1,196	74.8	12.3	54	6	13
Zach Ertz	PHI	116	1,163	72.7	10.0	34	8	13
Kenny Golladay	DET	70	1,063	70.9	15.2	60	5	19
Odell Beckham Jr.	NYG	77	1,052	87.7	13.7	51	6	17
Tyler Boyd	CIN	76	1,028	73.4	13.5	49	7	21
Stefon Diggs	MIN	102	1,021	68.1	10.0	75	9	13
Amari Cooper	OAK/DAL	75	1,005	67.0	13.4	90	7	10
Jarvis Landry	CLE	81	976	61.0	12.0	51	4	13
Tyler Lockett	SEA	57	965	60.3	16.9	52	10	17
Jared Cook	OAK	68	896	56.0	13.2	45	6	15
Corey Davis	TEN	65	891	55.7	13.7	51	4	15
Sterling Shepard	NYG	66	872	54.5	13.2	58	4	12
Emmanuel Sanders	DEN	71	868	72.3	12.2	64	4	13
Christian McCaffrey	CAR	107	867	54.2	8.1	38	6	11
Julian Edelman	NE	74	850	70.8	11.5	36	6	12
Alshon Jeffery	PHI	65	843	64.8	13.0	52	6	9
Chris Godwin	TB	59	842	52.6	14.3	48	7	10
Mohamed Sanu	ATL	66	838	52.4	12.7	44	4	7

	TEAM	REC	YDS	YPG	YPC	LONG	TD	20+
Calvin Ridley	ATL	64	821	51.3	12.8	75	10	11
Adam Humphries	TB	76	816	51.0	10.7	51	5	7
Golden Tate	DET/PHI	74	795	53.0	10.7	67	4	9
DJ Moore	CAR	55	788	49.3	14.3	82	2	9
DeSean Jackson	TB	41	774	64.5	18.9	75	4	13
Allen Robinson II	CHI	55	754	58.0	13.7	43	4	11
Robby Anderson	NYJ	50	752	53.7	15.0	76	6	10
James White	NE	87	751	46.9	8.6	42	7	3
Eric Ebron	IND	66	750	46.9	11.4	53	13	7
Jordy Nelson	OAK	63	739	49.3	11.7	66	3	7
Josh Gordon	CLE/NE	41	737	61.4	18.0	55	4	12
Nelson Agholor	PHI	64	736	46.0	11.5	83	4	10
Larry Fitzgerald	ARI	69	734	45.9	10.6	37	6	8
Tarik Cohen	CHI	71	725	45.3	10.2	70	5	9
Saquon Barkley	NYG	91	721	45.1	7.9	57	4	5
Dede Westbrook	JAC	66	717	44.8	10.9	61	5	15
John Brown	BAL	42	715	44.7	17.0	71	5	11
Alvin Kamara	NO	81	709	47.3	8.8	42	4	7
Courtland Sutton	DEN	42	704	44.0	16.8	42	4	16
A.J. Green	CIN	46	694	77.1	15.1	38	6	12
Taylor Gabriel	CHI	67	688	43.0	10.3	54	2	7
Rob Gronkowski	NE	47	682	52.5	14.5	42	3	8
Demaryius Thomas	DEN/HOU	59	677	45.1	11.5	45	5	9
Cole Beasley	DAL	65	672	42.0	10.3	32	3	3
Donte Moncrief	JAC	48	668	41.8	13.9	80	3	7
Mike Williams	LAC	43	664	41.5	15.4	55	10	11
Austin Hooper	ATL	71	660	41.3	9.3	36	4	7
Tyrell Williams	LAC	41	653	40.8	15.9	75	5	11
Zay Jones	BUF	56	652	40.8	11.6	57	7	7
Willie Snead IV	BAL	62	651	40.7	10.5	28	1	5
David Njoku	CLE	56	639	39.9	11.4	66	4	9
Jimmy Graham	GB	55	636	39.8	11.6	54	2	7

NFL Rushing Leaders

	TEAM	ATT	YDS	YPG	YPC	APG	TD	20+
Isaiah Crowell	NYJ	143	685	52.7	4.8	11.0	6	6
Mark Ingram	NO	138	645	53.8	4.7	11.5	6	3
Kerryon Johnson	DET	118	641	64.1	5.4	11.8	3	6
Josh Allen	BUF	89	631	52.6	7.1	7.4	8	8
Dalvin Cook	MIN	133	615	55.9	4.6	12.1	2	4
Latavius Murray	MIN	140	578	36.1	4.1	8.8	6	6
Carlos Hyde	CLE/JAC	172	571	40.8	3.3	12.3	5	1
Austin Ekeler	LAC	106	554	39.6	5.2	7.6	3	4
Deshaun Watson	HOU	99	551	34.4	5.6	6.2	5	2
Kenyan Drake	MIA	120	535	33.4	4.5	7.5	4	4
Royce Freeman	DEN	130	521	37.2	4.0	9.3	5	2
Dion Lewis	TEN	155	517	32.3	3.3	9.7	1	2
LeSean McCoy	BUF	161	514	36.7	3.2	11.5	3	3
Mike Davis	SEA	112	514	34.3	4.6	7.5	4	2
Josh Adams	PHI	120	511	36.5	4.3	8.6	3	4
Alfred Blue	HOU	150	499	31.2	3.3	9.4	2	0
Cam Newton	CAR	101	488	34.9	4.8	7.2	4	2
Jamaal Williams	GB	121	464	29.0	3.8	7.6	3	1
Tarik Cohen	CHI	99	444	27.8	4.5	6.2	3	7
Leonard Fournette	JAC	133	439	54.9	3.3	16.6	5	2
Alfred Morris	SF	111	428	35.7	3.9	9.3	2	3
James White	NE	94	425	26.6	4.5	5.9	5	5
Mitchell Trubisky	CHI	68	421	30.1	6.2	4.9	3	4
Rashaad Penny	SEA	85	419	29.9	4.9	6.1	2	4
LeGarrette Blount	DET	154	418	26.1	2.7	9.6	5	2
T.J. Yeldon	JAC	104	414	29.6	4.0	7.4	1	1
Alex Collins	BAL	114	411	41.1	3.6	11.4	7	0

	TEAM	ATT	YDS	YPG	YPC	APG	TD	20+
C.J. Anderson	CAR/LAR	67	403	36.6	6.0	6.1	2	3
Chris Ivory	BUF	115	385	29.6	3.3	8.8	1	2
Marshawn Lynch	OAK	90	376	62.7	4.2	15.0	3	1
Russell Wilson	SEA	67	376	23.5	5.6	4.2	0	3
Blake Bortles	JAC	58	365	28.1	6.3	4.5	1	3
Wendell Smallwood	PHI	87	364	22.8	4.2	5.4	3	0
Marcus Mariota	TEN	64	357	25.5	5.6	4.6	2	3
Bilal Powell	NYJ	80	343	49.0	4.3	11.4	0	2
Jordan Wilkins	IND	60	336	21.0	5.6	3.8	1	1
Kenneth Dixon	BAL	60	333	55.5	5.6	10.0	2	2
Ito Smith	ATL	90	315	22.5	3.5	6.4	4	0
Nyheim Hines	IND	85	314	19.6	3.7	5.3	2	0
Dak Prescott	DAL	75	305	19.1	4.1	4.7	6	1
Jameis Winston	TB	49	281	25.5	5.7	4.5	1	0
Elijah McGuire	NYJ	92	276	34.5	3.0	11.5	3	1
Patrick Mahomes	KC	60	272	17.0	4.5	3.8	2	3
Aaron Rodgers	GB	43	269	16.8	6.3	2.7	2	3
Jeff Wilson Jr.	SF	66	266	44.3	4.0	11.0	0	0
Zach Zenner	DET	55	265	33.1	4.8	6.9	3	1
Raheem Mostert	SF	34	261	29.0	7.7	3.8	1	2
Jalen Richard	OAK	55	259	16.2	4.7	3.4	1	3
Corey Clement	PHI	68	259	23.5	3.8	6.2	2	2
Damien Williams	KC	50	256	16.0	5.1	3.1	4	3
Jaylen Samuels	PIT	56	256	18.3	4.6	4.0	0	1
Marcus Murphy	BUF	52	250	22.7	4.8	4.7	0	1
Spencer Ware	KC	51	246	18.9	4.8	3.9	2	2
Cordarrelle Patterson	NE	42	228	15.2	5.4	2.8	1	2

NFL Receiving Leaders

	TEAM	REC	YDS	YPG	YPC	LONG	TD	20+
Kyle Rudolph	MIN	64	634	39.6	9.9	44	4	6
Doug Baldwin	SEA	50	618	47.5	12.4	42	5	9
Vance McDonald	PIT	50	610	40.7	12.2	75	4	6
Michael Crabtree	BAL	54	607	37.9	11.2	27	3	6
Jalen Richard	OAK	68	607	37.9	8.9	32	0	5
Christian Kirk	ARI	43	590	49.2	13.7	75	3	8
Antonio Callaway	CLE	43	586	36.6	13.6	71	5	8
Marquez Valdes-Scantling	GB	38	581	36.3	15.3	60	2	8
Todd Gurley II	LAR	59	580	41.4	9.8	56	4	5
Evan Engram	NYG	45	577	52.5	12.8	54	3	8
Danny Amendola	MIA	59	575	38.3	9.7	39	1	4
Rashard Higgins	CLE	39	572	44.0	14.7	40	4	11
Trey Burton	CHI	54	569	35.6	10.5	47	6	7
Ezekiel Elliott	DAL	77	567	37.8	7.4	38	3	4
Cooper Kupp	LAR	40	566	70.8	14.2	70	6	9
O.J. Howard	TB	34	565	56.5	16.6	75	5	11
Jordan Reed	WAS	54	558	42.9	10.3	34	2	7
Kenny Stills	MIA	37	553	36.9	14.9	75	6	7
Mark Andrews	BAL	34	552	34.5	16.2	74	3	8
Devin Funchess	CAR	44	549	39.2	12.5	27	4	8
Robert Foster	BUF	27	541	41.6	20.0	75	3	9
Chris Hogan	NE	35	532	33.3	15.2	63	3	11
Josh Doctson	WAS	44	532	35.5	12.1	32	2	7
Sammy Watkins	KC	40	519	51.9	13.0	50	3	7
Marvin Jones Jr.	DET	35	508	56.4	14.5	39	5	5
Michael Gallup	DAL	33	507	31.7	15.4	49	2	10
Will Fuller V	HOU	32	503	71.9	15.7	73	4	7
Chris Herndon	NYJ	39	502	31.4	12.9	32	4	9
James Conner	PIT	55	497	38.2	9.0	29	1	5
Curtis Samuel	CAR	39	494	38.0	12.7	53	5	6
Seth Roberts	OAK	45	494	32.9	11.0	44	2	7
Keelan Cole	JAC	38	491	30.7	12.9	35	1	7

	TEAM	REC	YDS	YPG	YPC	LONG	TD	20+
Melvin Gordon III	LAC	50	490	40.8	9.8	66	4	5
Kendrick Bourne	SF	42	487	30.4	11.6	33	4	6
T.J. Yeldon	JAC	55	487	34.8	8.9	37	4	4
Chester Rogers	IND	53	485	30.3	9.2	34	2	5
Kenyan Drake	MAI	53	477	29.8	9.0	52	5	4
Dante Pettis	SF	27	467	38.9	17.3	75	5	9
Taywan Taylor	TEN	37	466	35.8	12.6	55	1	3
Quincy Enunwa	NYJ	38	449	40.8	11.8	42	1	6
Jarius Wright	CAR	43	447	27.9	10.4	33	1	8
David Johnson	ARI	50	446	27.9	8.9	40	3	6
David Moore	SEA	26	445	27.8	17.1	54	5	8
C.J. Uzomah	CIN	43	439	27.4	10.2	29	3	6
Duke Johnson Jr.	CLE	47	429	26.8	9.1	32	3	4
Tre'Quan Smith	NO	28	427	28.5	15.3	62	5	6
Nyheim Hines	IND	63	425	26.6	6.7	28	2	3
Anthony Miller	CHI	33	423	28.2	12.8	55	7	6
Jesse James	PIT	30	423	26.4	14.1	51	2	8
Austin Ekeler	LAC	39	404	28.9	10.4	44	3	5
Josh Reynolds	LAR	29	402	25.1	13.9	33	5	6
Benjamin Watson	NO	35	400	25.0	11.4	32	2	6
Dion Lewis	TEN	59	400	25.0	6.8	37	1	3
Marquise Goodwin	SF	23	395	35.9	17.2	67	4	5
Albert Wilson	MIA	26	391	55.9	15.0	75	4	7
Jamison Crowder	WAS	29	388	43.1	13.4	79	2	4
Theo Riddick	DET	61	384	27.4	6.3	20	0	1
Randall Cobb	GB	38	383	42.6	10.1	75	2	4
Kelvin Benjamin	BUF/KC	25	380	25.3	15.2	40	1	5
Kareem Hunt	KC	26	378	34.4	14.5	67	7	7
Jermaine Kearse	NYJ	37	371	26.5	10.0	29	1	3
Vernon Davis	WAS	25	367	26.2	14.7	53	2	8
Ricky Seals-Jones	ARI	34	343	22.9	10.1	40	1	5
Breshad Perriman	CLE	16	340	34.0	21.3	66	2	4

20 **Best** UDFAs in NFL history

By Aaron Tallent



Despite having an excellent career at Colorado, running back **Phillip Lindsay** was not picked in the 2018 NFL Draft before signing with his hometown Denver Broncos as a free agent. He finished the season ninth in the NFL in rushing with 1,037 yards, becoming the first undrafted offensive rookie to be selected for a Pro Bowl. While we focus so much on the draft, Lindsay is just the latest example that good players can be found after the draft's final round. Here are the 20 best undrafted free agents (UDFAs) in NFL history.

1. Warren Moon, QB, Edmonton Eskimos (1978) — Houston Oilers

A standout at the University of Washington, Moon certainly would have been drafted had he not been a victim of the era in which he played. Instead, he opted to play for the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos. Five consecutive Grey Cups later, NFL teams were lining up to bid for his services in 1984. He chose the Oilers and went on to play for 17 more seasons and have a Hall of Fame career.

2. Marion Motley, FB/LB, Nevada (1946) — Cleveland Browns

Fellow Hall of Fame running back Joe Perry called Motley the "greatest all-around football player there ever was." After signing with the Browns after World War II, Motley had one of the most dominating five years of any running back, averaging 8.2 yards per carry in 1946 and 5.8 yards in '50 as Cleveland won five straight championships. Motley's body started to break down, but those five years earned him a spot in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

3. Emlen Tunnell, DB/PR, Iowa (1948) — New York Giants

Needing money and told he had to go to summer school to play his senior year at Iowa, Tunnell instead hitchhiked to New York and tried out for the Giants. The decision proved fruitful as he went on to become an elite defensive back and punt returner during his 14-year career.

4. Kurt Warner, QB, Northern Iowa (1994) — Green Bay Packers

Warner went undrafted and tried out for the Packers but was cut before the regular season. He then stocked shelves before signing with the Arena Football League's Iowa Barnstormers in 1995, where he had three great seasons before signing with the St. Louis Rams in December 1997. What followed was one of the greatest stories in NFL history.

5. Joe Perry, FB, Compton Junior College (1948) — San Francisco 49ers

Perry played only one year in college because he served in World War II. He emerged as one of the best running backs of his era, becoming the first player to rush for more than 1,000 yards in consecutive seasons. In 1958, he became the NFL's all-time rushing leader and held that distinction until Jim Brown surpassed him in '63.

6. Dick "Night Train" Lane, CB, Scottsbluff Junior College (1952) — Los Angeles Rams

After four years in the military, Lane asked the Rams for a tryout and was signed. During his 14 seasons with the Rams, Chicago Cardinals and Detroit Lions, Lane was one of the best in the game. His 14 interceptions as a rookie in 1952 set a record that still stands.

7. Willie Brown, CB, Grambling State (1963) — Houston Oilers

Brown signed with the Oilers but was cut during training camp. He then signed with Denver and made the AFL All-Star team twice before being traded to Oakland in 1967. He was the leader of the Raiders defense and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1984.

8. Jim Langer, G, South Dakota State (1970) — Cleveland Browns

The Browns signed Langer but cut him during training camp. He was then signed by the Miami Dolphins, who moved him to center. Langer won the starting spot in 1972 and went on to win two Super Bowls and make six straight Pro Bowls. He was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility in 1987.

9. John Randle, DT, Texas A&M-Kingsville (1990) — Minnesota Vikings

Randle signed with the Vikings and became one of the best defensive tackles of the '90s. He recorded 137.5 sacks over his 14-year career and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2010.

10. Willie Wood, QB, USC (1960) — Green Bay Packers

After not being drafted, Wood wrote a letter to Vince Lombardi requesting a tryout. Once he got to Green Bay, he asked to be switched to defensive back. The request proved fortuitous; he made eight Pro Bowls and won five titles during his Hall of Fame career.

11. Lou Groza, K/T, Ohio State (1946) — Cleveland Browns
12. Bill Willis, DT, Ohio State (1945) — Cleveland Browns
13. Adam Vinatieri, K, South Dakota State (1996) — New England Patriots
14. Larry Little, G, Bethune-Cookman (1967) — San Diego Chargers
15. James Harrison, LB, Kent State (2002) — Pittsburgh Steelers
16. Jeff Saturday, C, North Carolina (1998) — Baltimore Ravens
17. London Fletcher, LB, John Carroll (1998) — St. Louis Rams
18. Emmitt Thomas, DB, Bishop College (1966) — Kansas City Chiefs
19. Frank Gatski, C, Auburn (1946) — Cleveland Browns
20. Brian Waters, TE, North Texas (1999) — Dallas Cowboys

For more of these undrafted gems, visit athlonsports.com/udfas



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